Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-069
Tuesday
11 April 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-069 *11 April 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Delegate Sums Up Geneva Talks on Nuclear Test Ban *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Ukrainian-Iranian-Turkmen Talks Start in Tehran *[ITAR-TASS]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Apr *[ITAR-TASS]* 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Karasin Details Agenda for Russian-U.S. Summit *[Moscow International]* 3
'Tacit Taboo' Likely on Information About Clinton Visit *[INTERFAX]* 3
Yeltsin: No Talks With Christopher Before Clinton's Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Heathrow Employee Suggested as Lockerbie Bomber *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 Apr]* 3
Media Chiefs Testify at U.S. Congressional Hearings *[IZVESTIYA 6 Apr]* 4
Yeltsin: Kohl Not To Attend Moscow Victory Parade *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Chernomyrdin To Attend London, Paris, Berlin Ceremonies *[INTERFAX]* 5
Rybkin Says 'Nuclear Facilities Safely Under Control' *[Vienna NEWS 6 Apr]* 5
Yeltsin Aide in FRY: Cease-Fire in Bosnia Must Be Extended *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Russia Sets Conditions for Contacts With Pale *[INTERFAX]* 6
Soskovets Says Talks on Black Sea Fleet To Be Continued *[INTERFAX]* 6
Grachev To Visit China, South Korea in May *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Air Force Denies Bombing Afghanistan's Takhar Province *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Tajikistan: Better Defenses Needed Against Hardline Rebels *[INTERFAX]* 7

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

'Political' Demands To Feature in 12 Apr Union Action *[IZVESTIYA 11 Apr]* 8
Trade Unions Prepare For United Actions *[ITAP-TASS]* 8
President Yeltsin Arrives in Kabardino-Balkaria *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Decree on Kabardino-Balkar Free Trade Zone Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Yeltsin in Nalchik: No Decision Yet on Running For Office *[Moscow ORT]* 9
Further on Possible Yeltsin Bid for Presidency *[INTERFAX]* 9
Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss 'Personnel Questions' *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Electoral Commission Head Ryabov Interviewed *[TRUD 8 Apr]* 10
Derzhava Nominates Rutskoy as Presidential Candidate *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Economic Freedom Party Leader To Run for Presidency *[INTERFAX]* 12
Free Labor, Consolidation Parties Form Election Alliance *[INTERFAX]* 13
Further on New Electoral Bloc *[SEGODNYA 5 Apr]* 13
Filatov Says Talks of Election Postponement 'Irresponsible' *[INTERFAX]* 13
Rebuts Election Postponement 'Fabrications' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 Apr]* 13
Shumeyko: Federation Council Likely To Reject Election Bill *[INTERFAX]* 14
Major Russian Banks Financing Liberal Democratic Party *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Moroz Analyzes Russia's 1996 Presidential Contest *[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 29 Mar]* 15
National Unity Movement Leader Beaten in Attack *[Moscow NTV]* 19
Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Russia's Economic Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
New Legislation Covers Government Communication, Work *[INTERFAX]* 20
State Controls Over Information Security Enacted *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 5 Apr]* 20

FSK Uncovers 22 Agents of Foreign Special Services *[INTERFAX]* 21
Population, Life Expectancy Decrease *[Radio Rossii]* 21
Inward Migration Now Totals Over 700,000 *[PRAVDA 4 Apr]* 21
Rybkin: Regions Must Learn From Chechnya *[INTERFAX]* 21
Shoygu: 'Entire Situation' in Groznyy Under Control *[INTERFAX]* 22

Media Issues

Soskovets Meets Representatives of TV, Radio Companies *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Special Commission To Make Licensing Decisions for TV, Radio *[INTERFAX]* 22
Duma Commission Preparing Appeal on Public Television *[Moscow 2x2 TV]* 23

Military, Space & Nuclear Issues

Grachev To Visit Strategic Purpose Missile Troops *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Authorities 'Cringe' Over VE-Day Parade *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 4 Apr]* 23
Veterans Will Hold 'Alternative' VE-Day March *[PRAVDA 5 Apr]* 24
Filatov Outlines Moscow V-Day Celebrations 8-9 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
General Lebed Sees Coming of Russian Dictatorship *[INTERFAX]* 25
Lebed on Military, Regional Concerns *[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Apr]* 25
'Russian Military Brotherhood' Formed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 Apr]* 27
Air Force Commander: No New Combat Aircraft Expected *[Moscwo 2x2 TV]* 27
Video Report on Satellite Launch Using Modified Ex-SS-25 *[Moscow RTV]* 27
Plans 'Completed' for Defense Reforms, Civilian Ministry
[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 11 Apr] 27
No 'Major' Breakdowns at Nuclear Power Plants *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Nuclear Center in Chelyabinsk Develops Conversion Program *[ITAR-TASS]* 28

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Urged To Revise Privatization Plan *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Duma Backs Zhirinovskiy Call for Corruption Investigation *[INTERFAX]* 29
State Duma To Discuss Moratorium on Black Sea Fleet *[INTERFAX]* 29
Duma Ratifies Consular Convention With Ukraine *[INTERFAX]* 30
Duma To Debate 'Illegitimacy' of Sevastopol Transfer *[INTERFAX]* 30
Duma Halts Transfer of Land to Foreign States Without Vote *[INTERFAX]* 30
Duma Adopts Laws Rejected by Federation Council *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
State Duma Rejects Medical Examination Commission Bill *[INTERFAX]* 31
Duma To Discuss 14th Army Presence in Dniester *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Kolesnikov To Represent Government in Service Law Debate *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 7 Apr]* 31
Duma Passes Law on Support for News Media, Book Publication *[INTERFAX]* 31

Regional Affairs

Schedule for Yeltsin's Visit to Kabardino-Balkaria *[INTERFAX]* 31
Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya 32
Red Cross Barred From Entering Samashki *[Moscow NTV]* 32
Ingush Medics Denied Access to Samashki *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
MVD Troops Clear Dudayev's Western Strongholds *[INTERFAX]* 32
Federal Troops Take Achkoy-Martan, Zakan-Yurt *[Moscow Radio]* 32
Human Rights Campaigner Interviews Dudayev *[TRUD 11 Apr]* 33
Chechen Ministers Say War 'Just Beginning' *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 10 Apr]* 35
Chechen Commander Says 'Men Still Fighting' *[AFP]* 37
Parliamentary-Level Peace Talks Proposed *[INTERFAX]* 38
Rybkin Seeks 'Evening Out' of Regions' Rights *[INTERFAX]* 38
Senate Committee Rejects Duma Bill Limiting Regional Powers *[SEGODNYA 11 Apr]* 38
Samara Oblast Duma Approves Budget *[SEGODNYA 30 Mar]* 39

Economic Issues

Chubays Says Economic Situation 'Radically Changed' *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Lower Inflation, Stabilization Seen in May-Jun *[SEGODNYA 11 Apr]* 40

Finance Ministry Now Repaying Debts to Defense Industry *[Moscow ORT]* 40
Minister Warns Duties on Crude Oil Will Raise Prices *[INTERFAX]* 40
Decree Sets Index-Linked Petroleum Export Excise Duties *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 Apr]* 40
Russia Set To End State Monopoly On Gold Exports *[London FINANCIAL TIMES 11 Apr]* 41

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Under Secretary Talbott Meets With Parliament's Speaker *[INTERFAX]* 43
Kuchma, U.S. Under Secretary Talbott Meet in Kiev *[INTERFAX]* 43
Spokesman on Results of Talks *[INTERFAX]* 43
Defense Minister Discusses Military Issues With Talbott *[UKRINFORM]* 43
Shmarov Favors Increasing Peacekeeping Units in Former Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* 44
Ukraine, China To Cooperate in Defense Technology *[UNIAN]* 44
Defense Minister Reports on Visit to China, NPT Affirmation *[INTELNEWS]* 44

National Affairs

Railroad Accident Causes Temporary Rise in Radiation *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 8 Apr]* 44
Drobotov Interviewed on Crimean Situation *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 1 Apr]* 45
Law on Ukrainian Citizenship Explained *[KRYMSKAYA GAZETA 1 Apr]* 46
Law on Status of Crimea *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 18 Mar]* 47
Background of Crimea Crisis Traced *[MOST 27 Mar-2 Apr]* 49
Crimea Measures Analyzed *[UKRAYINA MOLODA 21 Mar]* 54
National TV, Radio Council Opens Crimean Office *[KRYMSKAYA GAZETA 1 Apr]* 55

Economic Issues

Resolution on State Budget Passed, Recommendations Made *[UNIAN]* 56
Government To Postpone Chernobyl AES Closure *[UNIAN]* 56
Priority Areas in Administering Foreign Loans Approved *[Kiev TV]* 57
Aluminum Industry, German Investment Plans Viewed *[URYADOVVY KURYER 4 Apr]* 57
Privatization of Municipal Property in Kharkov Detailed *[SLOBIDSKYY KRAY 1 Apr]* 57

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Lukashenka: Investment Funds Damage State Interests *[INTERFAX]* 59
Hryb: NATO Expansion Would Lead to Russia-Led 'Alternative' *[Minsk Radio]* 59
Prime Minister Admits 'Differences' With IMF *[INTERFAX]* 59
Chyhir Confident of Agreement *[Moscow Radio]* 59
Chyhir Favors End to Border Restrictions With Russia *[INTERFAX]* 59
Supreme Soviet Session Resumes; Referendum on Agenda *[Moscow RTV]* 59
Party Voices Support for President's Proposed Referendum *[BELAPAN]* 60
Supreme Soviet Resumes 10 Apr, Rejects Prosecutor's Bid *[Minsk Radio]* 60
Deputies Propose 'Alternative Questions' for Referendum *[BELAPAN]* 60
Deputies Debate Proposed Referendum, Set Date of 14 May *[Minsk TV]* 60
Supreme Soviet Prolongs Issue of Privatization Vouchers *[BELAPAN]* 61
Deputies Approve 'Only' 1 Question for 14 May Referendum *[Minsk Radio]* 61
People's Front To Celebrate WWII Victory *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
Free Trade Union To Protest 'Flagrant Violations' 18 Apr *[BELAPAN]* 61

Moldova

Foreign Minister Says China Foreign Policy Priority *[INTERFAX]* 61
Popov Says Cooperation With OSCE Main Priority of Policy *[INTERFAX]* 62
Gagauz Parliament Session Postponed Due to Lack of Quorum *[INFOTAG]* 62
14th Army Issues Declaration on Shumeyko Statement *[BASAPRESS]* 62

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Moscow Decision on 14th Army *[INTERFAX]* 63
Composition of Dniester's Illegal Armed Formations Detailed *[INFOTAG]* 63
Committee Chairman Suspends Protest Rally Until 4 May *[BASAPRESS]* 63

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Tokayev Views Government Delegation's Visit to U.S. *[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 1 Apr]* 65
Socialist Party Likely To Back Nazarbayev in Referendum *[INTERFAX]* 67
Parties Pledge Support for Nazarbayev in Referendum *[Almaty TV]* 67
Electoral Commission Chairman Views Planned Referendum *[PANORAMA 1 Apr]* 67
Results of Poll on Need for Referendum *[SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA 5 Apr]* 68
Nazarbayev Gives German President List of POW Graves *[INTERFAX]* 69
Nazarbayev Addresses Conference on Crime, Bribery *[Almaty TV]* 69
Premier Sets Out Views on Oil Projects *[Almaty TV]* 69
Statement, Cooperation Agreement Signed With Indonesia *[Almaty TV]* 71

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Dismisses Administration's Lone Ethnic Russian *[ITAR-TASS]* 71

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Address to Parliament Detailed *[Dushanbe Radio]* 71
Further on Border Incursion by Opposition Forces 73
Border Guards Kill 9 'Militants' *[INTERFAX]* 73
Reinforcements Pushing Back Insurgents *[ITAR-TASS]* 73
Over 46 Killed in Four Days *[Moscow ORT]* 73
UN Envoy Escapes Mine Blast *[ITAR-TASS]* 73
Situation Reportedly Under Control *[INTERFAX]* 74
Rakhmanov Calls For UNSC Talks *[INTERFAX]* 74
UN Envoy's Talks With Opposition Postponed *[INTERFAX]* 74
TASS Carries Roundup on Clashes *[ITAR-TASS]* 75
Border Guards Launch Air Attacks *[INTERFAX]* 75
Russians Regaining Control of Border Sectors *[ITAR-TASS]* 76
Three Russian Border Guards Killed *[ITAR-TASS]* 76
Russian Helicopters Strafe 'Militants' *[ITAR-TASS]* 76

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Favors 'Speeding Up' Trade Deal With Russia *[INTERFAX]* 77
Cooperation Agreements Signed With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 77
Shikhmuradov Views Niyazov Appeal for Neutrality Status *[INTERFAX]* 77
Iran, Armenia, Ukraine Sign Agreements To Buy Gas *[Moscow RTV]* 78

Uzbekistan

Results of Perry Visit Viewed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 8 Apr]* 78
Indonesian President Arrives for Three-Day Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 79
Karimov Comments on Indonesian Leader's Visit *[Tashkent Radio]* 79

CAUCASUS

Armenia

IMF To Grant $65 Million Standby Loan *[INTERFAX]* 80
Shelling of Armenian Northeast Border Villages Continues *[SNARK]* 80
Kocharyan Views First 100 Days of Presidency *[RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA 4 Apr]* 80

Azerbaijan

Aliyev, Yeltsin Advisor Discuss Baku-Moscow Ties *[INTERFAX]* 82
Turkey Expected To Increase Stake in Oil Consortium *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
Aliyev Cites 'Political Factors' *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
Iranian Azerbaijanis Form National Independence Front *[Moscow NTV]* 83
Turkish Involvement in March Coup Attempt Alleged *[ZERKALO 1 Apr]* 83
NFA Denies Involvement in Coup Attempt *[ZERKALO 1 Apr]* 84

Georgia

Ministry Hopes 'Incident' Will Not Mar Ties With Russia *[INTERFAX]* 84
Opposition Coalition 'A Single Georgia' Formed *[IPRINDA]* 84
New Center-Left Party Holds Constituent Congress *[AKHALI TAOBA 6 Apr]* 85
Abkhaz Side Deploys Additional Forces in Gali Rayon *[Tbilisi Radio]* 85

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Meri To Visit London in May for VE Celebrations *[ETA]* 86
General Staff Appoints New Head of Intelligence *[Tallinn Radio]* 86

Latvia

Former Defense Minister Sees Changes in Defense Policy *[DIENA 29 Mar]* 86
Ambassador to U.S. Denies 'Inadequate Behavior' Charges *[DIENA 25 Mar]* 86
Government Proposes Talks With Russia on Asian Refugees *[BNS]* 87

Lithuania

Brazauskas To Attend London VE Ceremony *[ELTA]* 87
Landsbergis Deems Tax Policy Damaging to Business *[BNS]* 88
Landsbergis Blasts Russia Over Illegal Asian Migrants *[ITAR-TASS]* 88

Delegate Sums Up Geneva Talks on Nuclear Test Ban

LD0704163495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1436 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kostantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva April 7 TASS—The Geneva talks on the universal and complete prohibition of nuclear tests are "on the whole proceeding quite positively". This view was expressed to ITAR-TASS by Grigoriy Berdennikov, the Russian permanent delegate to the U.N. conference on disarmament. Summing up the results of the first phase of the conference's annual session, which ended here today, he made no bones of the fact that the Russian side had expected "faster progress".

The intensive debates, which began in Geneva in January 1994, have allowed the 37 states, attending the conference, to draw up a so-called "transitional draft" treaty by September. The parties to the talks are continuing to seek this year compromises on controversial passages, which are quite numerous in the text. These efforts will be continued during the second phase of the session, scheduled to begin in Geneva on May 31.

"Work is proceeding at a slower pace than desired. This is explained, among other things, by some objective reasons, including the technical difficulty of the discussed problems," Berdennikov said. "This refers, in particular, to the elaboration of a control mechanism. We are, in effect, creating a new international monitoring system, consisting of seismic, hydroaccoustic, and other modern technologies. It is also far from easy to resolve the problem on on-spot inspections."

"There is no unanimity among us also on what should be banned: nuclear blasts or nuclear tests? The latter include computer modelling. A decision to choose the second road would mean a complete deadlock," Berdennikov believes. "It would be necessary to 'delve deep into computer programmes', and this is tantamount to 'delving into human brains'", he added.

There is some progress, and the brackets in the text are being gradually removed, but there is still much work ahead," the Russian delegate noted. "We are striving to have the treaty signed before the end of this year, by the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. The Americans are also inclined to do this. However, objectively speaking, we are still to overcome some very difficult problems."

Berdennikov noted among the first phase's most important results the decision, adopted by consensus, to set up a special committee, within which the negotiations on the prohibition of the production of fissionable materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices will be negotiated. Unfortunately, the existing contradictions have still not allowed the session to restore a whole line of other special committees, which existed last year, including the subcommittees on transparency, outer space, and security. Berdennikov expressed regret that the question of expanding the number of participants in the conference has not been resolved and has remained suspended in the air for the past one and a half years. "Our stand is most outspoken: we believe that everybody who had submitted corresponding applications should be allowed to take part in the conference," he stated. However, the question remains open to this day, because the United States has refused to agree to the list of 23 applicants, since it includes Iraq. Russia called for an urgent appointment of a new coordinator, vested with broad powers, who would "find new ways to settle the problem". "Why not consider the applications individually? Who will object, for instance, to the admission of Finland or the Belarus Republic?", Berdennikov inquired.

The American representative Stephen Ledogar, who addressed a press conference here on Thursday, made it clear that the United States was still not ready to give up its stand on Iraq's admission.

Ukrainian-Iranian-Turkmen Talks Start in Tehran

LD0804163995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1527 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigoryev for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran April 8 TASS—The tripartite negotiations of Ukraine, Iran and Turkmenistan started here today at the level of official delegations.

A Ukrainian Government delegation headed by Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko arrived here today to attend the talks. The delegation was met at the airport by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and other officials.

It is a qualitatively new form of cooperation, Udovenko told UKRINFORM. The talks will focus on development of trade and economic relations, for instance Ukrainian participation in exports of Turkmen and Iranian energy carriers. There is a project for construction of a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to eastern Europe via Iran and Turkey. Ukraine is ready to build the pipeline. The idea of Turkmen gas supplies to Ukraine for the production of mineral fertilizers for Iran is also interesting. This proves the Ukrainian interest in mutually beneficial trade and economic relations with the near east and central Asia, said the minister.

The two-day official visit of the delegation is expected to include Ukrainian-Iranian negotiations. Ukraine would like to intensify cooperation with Iran, said Udovenko.

In his words, the visit has nothing to do with the Russian-Iranian negotiations and cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Ukraine does not want to provoke concern of United States or Israel, he added.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Apr

LD1104055795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0425 GMT 11 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—The tragic events on the Tajik-Afghan border are one of the main topics of today's Russian newspapers. "We can firmly claim now that the irreconcilable opposition has chosen force out of all versions to settle the intra-Tajik conflict," the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper draws the conclusion.

The IZVESTIYA newspaper reports that borderguards lost 26 people over the past few days, five out of whom are Russian citizens.

Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzonda, an opposition leader, said in an interview with the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper that "opposition detachments did not take any actions against Russian borderguards and even did not attack the border".

He accused Tajik authorities of the present situation, claiming that they were preparing an operation to shift a motorised regiment to Badakhshan across the Khobu-Rabat pass. Earlier, a battalion of government troops was airlifted to Kalaykhumb by Russian borderguard helicopters.

In the opinion of the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper, "the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border will deteriorate, and the number of attacks by gunmen will rise".

The same newspaper, referring to "a confidential talk" with a staffer from the office of the Russian president's national security adviser, reports that "work on drafting a concept for military reform" has been virtually completed. Its implementation will most probably start early this summer.

The following changes were singled out as the most important: Creation of a civilian defence ministry (civilians will make up 70 percent of the staff), the range of whose duties will be broad enough: from drafting military and technical policies to financial and economic supplies to armed forces, social adaptation of servicemen, etc.

It is planned that the new defence ministry will be headed by Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy of present Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. Neither the president, nor the premier have any objections against this candidacy, the daily writes.

According to the newspaper, the number of employees at the general staff will be considerably slashed. It is planned during the reform to cut gradually the numerical strength of Russian Armed Forces: initially down to 1.5 million and then to 1.2 million people, the newspaper notes.

Over 60 political parties and movements were registered in the country. Some of them directly depend on commercial structures, claims the ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA newspaper. In the daily's opinion, it is virtually impossible to detect monetary donations to parties.

The newspaper reminds its readers that a bill on political parties was drafted long ago, but legislators have no time to adopt it.

Acting Governor of the Russian Central bank Tatyana Paramonova, participating in the annual meeting of the board of governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], now in progress in London, said that "Russia is becoming the major client of the EBRD, which is now responsible for 20 percent of its banking portfolio".

The TRUD newspaper prints an interview with Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev given to A. Arakelyan, a human rights activist from St. Petersburg.

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper reports that day of united actions by trade unions will be held in the country on Wednesday. There will be rallies, demonstrations and picketing of buildings of administration heads in various regions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Karasin Details Agenda for Russian-U.S. Summit

LD1004171495 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1500 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The director of the information department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Grigoriy Karasin, has announced that the Russian-U.S. summit in Moscow will focus on European security, the reduction of strategic arsenals, and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

He said the agenda had been finally agreed with the visiting United States Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who left Moscow on Sunday [9 April]. While in Moscow, Mr. Talbott had talks with the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

'Tacit Taboo' Likely on Information About Clinton Visit

LD1004181695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax)—Moscow and Washington are likely to have imposed a "tacit taboo" on information concerning the schedule for the U.S. President Bill Clinton's coming visit to Russia.

The visit was planned for May 9-10. The U.S. president will take part in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Victory Day and hold talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The U.S. deputy State Secretary Strobe Talbott began preparing the schedule for Bill Clinton's visit to Moscow last week. Talbott met with several Russian high-ranking officials, including Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov dealing with relations with the U.S. in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Interfax has not yet managed to learn the details of these meetings. A high-ranking Russian diplomat said that Moscow and Washington had decided to prevent any "leakage" of information on the issue. The same source said that an official statement on the results of the Moscow meetings of the U.S. deputy state secretary would be made at a briefing in the Russian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

The same source said that the Russian Foreign Ministry's North America Department had stopped giving any additional information on the U.S. president's visit not only to journalists but even to other departments of the Russian Foreign Ministry on Saturday.

However, another high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax in the Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department that this was not true. "No restrictions have been imposed on information circulating in the Russian Foreign Ministry," the diplomat said.

The U.S. embassy to Russia told Interfax that there was in fact no embargo on information on the U.S. president's visit to Moscow. "We just don't want to make known some details beforehand as the visit's schedule is now being coordinated and could be changed any time on the parties' mutual consent," a U.S. high-ranking diplomat said.

When asked if this reminded him the ex-USSR times when only official information was in circulation, the U.S. diplomat said, "No. It's a usual practice for democratic countries."

Yeltsin: No Talks With Christopher Before Clinton's Visit

LD1104101695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0951 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nalchik April 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin plans no meeting with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher before President Bill Clinton arrives in Moscow in May for the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the victory in World War Two.

"I think he will not come to Moscow", Yeltsin told TASS Tuesday upon arrival in the city of Nalchik in the north Caucasian Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria.

However, he did not rule out a possibility that Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev may have a meeting with Christopher before Clinton's visit.

Heathrow Employee Suggested as Lockerbie Bomber

MM0604115795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 95 First Edition p 7

[Article by Vladimir Lutsenko and Vladimir Mikhaylov: "Why Boeing Blew Up"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 21 December 1988 the greatest disaster in the air in all aviation history occurred above the Scottish town of Lockerbie. For reasons not established to this day, a Boeing-747 (at the time the biggest passenger aircraft) of the U.S. air company Pan-Am blew up in flight. All 270 passengers and crew members died. [passage omitted]

In the first days after the tragedy several British specialists reported that to cause such an explosion there must have been at least 20 kg of explosives on board which, of course, there could not have been. And our proposals seem to confirm that. In reality it was an explosion (or rather a detonation) of the tank on the left wing of the Boeing on flight 103, which was completely full of kerosene. If you study the remains of this wing more closely (and there must be remains of it) they should all have traces of the effect of high temperatures. Precisely because there was a "detonation" the fragments of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

left wing will be far smaller than the fragments of the chassis in ordinary accidents.

Now it is worth mentioning the perpetrators of this act of terrorism. As we know on 14 November the U.S. Government issued warrants for the arrest of two Libyan special services employees on charges of carrying out this act of terrorism. The grounds for this were facts allegedly indicating that it was these people who organized the delivery to the flight 103 aircraft of a suitcase containing an explosive substance which was allegedly loaded onto the Boeing at Frankfurt-am-Main from a flight from Malta. We do not mention the fact that this hypothesis immediately cast doubt on the professionalism of the FRG security services but of itself this way of putting the question diverted the investigation from a detailed analysis of all the stories and directed them toward connecting proof of the "Libyan connection."

We do not know and shall not venture to hypothesize about who organized and perpetrated this act of terrorism. But we would like to make the following points. As we know, an act of terrorism for political purposes only has any point when it is clear both to the victim and to those around who perpetrated it and why. In this case, even seven years later, no one has admitted to being the culprit. And Libya has considered it necessary to isolate itself completely from the world community only because it did not wish hand over its citizens to what were in its view biased judges. It is well known from the press that the Libyans did not object to an investigation under international control.

Then there were stories that this was Iran's revenge for the shooting down of its aircraft. A little earlier the Palestinians had been accused. Then suspicion fell on a Lebanese citizen allegedly connected with the CIA and the international arms dealing or drugs dealing Mafia. The main thing for us was not even the evidence, which was worked on with all kinds of conceivable and inconceivable stories, but the fact that the investigation did not exactly establish the "mechanism" for the Boeing's crash.

The U.S. special services were supplied with information about which we now write openly. We said that we believe the perpetrator of the act of terrorism to have been an employee at Heathrow (London) airport and we even indicated what legal work he was doing on that sad day. Naturally we cannot give his name, and not only because we do not know it. Anything is possible, as they say, and we would not like to make a wrongful accusation against a man whose guilt has not been proven in court. But we would like the British special services to check (and that would be no problem for them) whether the paths of this man (or whoever was next to him) crossed with those who were in Montreal in 1985 when the Air India aircraft crashed.

The reason for this article is not only that it is seven years since the Boeing crashed at Lockerbie and the culprits have still not been found. We believe that such crimes will be reliably uncovered and even prevented only when not only official operating specialists in the special services but also the veterans of these services pool their efforts at the international level for instance under UN auspices and create some kind of consultative organ of former specialists in the field of uncovering and investigating instances of terrorism in their own countries.

Media Chiefs Testify at U.S. Congressional Hearings

MM0604131195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "NTV Broadcasts in Washington. V. Gusinskiy, Ye. Kiselev, and I. Malashenko Address Congressional Hearings on Freedom of the Press in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—A long essay devoted to Yevgeniy Kiselev and published in THE WASHINGTON POST a few days ago has still further heightened U.S. public interest in the strange state of the Russian press.

The criticism of the events in Chechnya by a number of newspapers and the independent television companies' free showing of shot material, even given the somewhat self-limited nature of the commentaries and appeals, were important arguments in the mouths of those Americans who deem it expedient to support President Boris Yeltsin.

Testifying to one of the subcommittees of Congress, Russian businessman V. Gusinskiy urged people not to be overenthusiastic. The president of the "Most" banking group, which publishes the newspaper SEGODNYA and owns the NTV Television Company, believes that the Russian Government is purposely complicating the opportunities for the mass media to obtain advertising and is "destroying the advertising market."

NTV President Igor Malashenko said in the hearings that 10 years of "active democratic transformations" have not produced very many incontestable gains. They include little islands of free mass media. Answering questions from the U.S. legislators, Igor Malashenko expressed cautious doubt that the parliamentary and presidential elections in Russia will be held within the deadlines set by the Constitution.

"Even if the authorities do endeavor to stifle the independent mass media, they will hardly succeed," Igor Malashenko said in reply to a question about the prospects for democracy in Russia.

The name of the late Vladislav Listyev figured frequently among the many questions addressed to Yevgeniy Kiselev, observer and NTV vice president. Kiselev refused to predict the results of the investigation. He called the situation in Russian television very difficult and "full of envy and intrigues."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Yeltsin: Kohl Not To Attend Moscow Victory Parade

LD1104100895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1001 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Gennadiy Kipkeyev and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria) April 11 TASS—"As distinct from the heads of the states-members of the anti-Hitlerite coalition, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will not attend the victory parade in Moscow on May 9. He will have his own agenda in the Russian capital," ITAR-TASS was told today by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, currently visiting Kabardino-Balkaria. The president had a telephone talk with the German chancellor before that.

Kohl has some problems, "which are understandable to us", Yeltsin noted, adding: "After all, our two countries had fought against each other". Therefore, "the FRG chancellor finds it not very appropriate to attend the V-day parade", the president stressed.

During his stay in Moscow, Kohl will lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier, will visit a German soldiers cemetery in Lyublino, near Moscow, and will attend the V-day reception, where he will deliver a speech.

The floor at this reception will also be taken by U.S. President Bill Clinton, French President Francois Mitterrand, and British Prime Minister John Major. "In other words, by all the members of the anti-Hitlerite coalition," Yeltsin stressed.

Chernomyrdin To Attend London, Paris, Berlin Ceremonies

LD1004185195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has been requested by President Yeltsin to represent Russia at ceremonies on May 6-8 in London, Paris and Berlin on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

Sources in the Russian cabinet have said Chernomyrdin is going to visit London on May 6 and 7, where he will take part in jubilee celebrations alongside Queen Elizabeth II and the leaders of nearly 80 countries.

On May 7-8 Chernomyrdin will be in Paris for ceremonies commemorating fifty years since the end of World War II battles in Europe. In Paris the United States will be represented by Vice- President Albert Gore and Britain, by Prince Charles.

On May 8 Prime Minister Chernomyrdin will fly to Berlin, where President Francois Mitterrand, of France, and British Prime Minister John Major will also arrive at Chancellor Helmut Kohl's invitation.

On the night of May 8, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin will return to Moscow and in the morning of May 9 he will attend the parade of WWII veterans and then ceremonies at the Poklonnaya Hill memorial.

Rybkin Says 'Nuclear Facilities Safely Under Control'

AU0604100495 Vienna NEWS in German 6 Apr 95 p 70

[Interview with Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin by W. Briem; place and date not given: "Fear of Nuclear Crime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Briem] Is Russia able to control the illegal trade in nuclear material?

[Rybkin] We have sold carrier rockets for satellites to India and nuclear power plant equipment to Iran. Both these deals are legal. We are observing contracts.

[Briem] The West is worried about nuclear crime.

[Rybkin] Crimes happen everywhere. The West tends to exaggerate isolated cases and overestimate them. I can assure you: We have closed the gaps in the control system. We have our nuclear facilities safely under control.

[Briem] And what about technological safety in your nuclear research centers?

[Rybkin] Like many other countries, we do have a few problems there. Disposal is an international problem that can only be solved by joint effort.

Yeltsin Aide in FRY: Cease-Fire in Bosnia Must Be Extended

LD1004132995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade April 10 TASS—Aleksandr Zotov, special representative of the Russian president in former Yugoslavia, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Monday, that it is extremely necessary to extend the armistice between the warring sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina after the present agreement expires on April 30.

He stressed that representatives from the international "contact group" on a Bosnian settlement who arrive in Belgrade today, intend here as well as during talks in Zagreb and Sarajevo to take utmost efforts to prevent a resumption of full-scale combat operations.

Zotov admitted that "there are great apprehensions for the time being that the present armistice agreement will

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

not hold on. If the warring sides in Bosnia refuse to prolong it, violence will be legitimised in actual fact".

The Russian representative on "the contact group" which also includes high-ranking diplomats and politicians from the United States, Britain, Germany and France, noted that "not a single warring side in Bosnia has chances to settle outstanding issues militarily.

Therefore, if the armistice is not extended, the war may assume a protracted and devastating nature. The sides will be more embittered by one another, and there will be less chances for their reconciliation on the basis of compromises. This should be avoided", Zotov stressed.

He said that "the contact group" plans to discuss "ways of steering events to normalise the situation in the territory of former Yugoslavia" at a coming meeting with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on Tuesday evening.

Zotov regards "a positive settlement of the question of lifting sanctions from Yugoslavia, which is actively advocated by Russia," as one of important elements for general normalisation of the situation in southern Europe.

It is expected that, following the meeting with Milosevic, "the contact groups" will hold meetings with President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic in Zagreb and Sarajevo on Wednesday and Thursday.

Russia Sets Conditions for Contacts With Pale

LD1004171295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax)—The Russian Foreign Ministry has no contacts with Pale but it is ready to establish them with the Bosnian Serb politicians who will be courageous enough to recognize the peace plan of the international contact group as the starting point of Bosnian settlement, a high-ranking staffer of the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax on Monday.

In his words, "Moscow has no prejudice against Bosnian Serbs. It is important that the logic of peace prevails in the Pale political leadership, and it does not matter who - Radovan Karadzic, Momchilo Kraisnic or another politician - is the carrier of this logic."

The diplomat admitted that "the peace plan of the contact group is not a panacea. It is a compromise equally inconvenient for all parties to the conflict. But we think that this very circumstance makes it basically acceptable."

He stressed that the contact group and the international community will not object to "the improvement or amendments of the peace plan" made on the mutual agreement of the two sides. "The replacement of quantity with quality is quite possible. The only condition is to recognize the peace plan as the starting point in settlement when 51 percent of Bosnian territory will belong to the Muslim- Croat side and 49 percent to the Serbs," said the diplomat.

Asked about prospects for a regular meeting of Foreign ministers from the contact group (Russia, the U.S., Britain, France and Germany), the diplomat said "the mini-summit will be expedient only if it results in the adoption of a weighty document. A document to concern specific aspects of Bosnian settlement has not been prepared."

Please see Interfax's Diplomatic Panorama of April 10 for more details.

Soskovets Says Talks on Black Sea Fleet To Be Continued

LD1004173195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax)—Russian-Ukrainian inter-government talks on the status of the Black Sea Fleet will be continued next week, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets told the State Duma today.

He said a Ukrainian official delegation headed by acting Prime Minister Yevgeniy Marchuk would arrive in Moscow on April 18.

Soskovets said he believed that if the issue of the Black Sea Fleet's status was not resolved in a year or two "we will just lose the fleet." He said that the talks were hard and that more consultations were needed.

Soskovets said he disapproved of "hasty evaluations" of the talks with Ukraine in the State Duma and of the recent incident in the parliament's lower chamber when Chairman of the National-Republican Party Nikolay Lysenko had ripped up Ukraine's national flag. Soskovets said he believed that to exaggerate the political background for the talks on the fleet's division meant to play in the hand of ultra-nationalists.

Soskovets said that all Russian-Ukrainian intergovernment agreements signed this spring concerned prior economic issues and settling bilateral economic cooperation as well as it was possible at present. He said Russia ought to sign 20 more similar agreements in the near future. Soskovets said that the lack of agreements on the inter-state level created many problems, including those concerning the status of Russians in Ukraine.

Speaking about restructuring the Ukrainian debt, Soskovets said Ukraine had to pay to Russia $600 million from the IMF credit resources this year.

Grachev To Visit China, South Korea in May

LD0604133195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1106 GMT 6 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev will pay official visits to China and South Korea in the second half of May, TASS learned from informed sources in the Russian Defence Ministry Thursday.

There have been no official confirmation about the visits so far, but TASS learned that Grachev is to visit Beijing on May 15-19 and will stay in Seoul on May 19-21.

It is expected that Grachev will sign a number of agreements on promoting military cooperation. The visits were agreed with China and South Korea at the level of defence ministers, according to the sources.

Last year Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian and his South Korean counterpart Yi Pyong-tae visited Russia, while Grachev was in Beijing and Seoul together with the Russian president in 1992.

Military relations between Russia and the two Asian states are developing according to bilateral agreements signed during the visits.

Grachev visited China also in November 1993 and signed a five-year agreement on military cooperation with its Defence Ministry.

Air Force Denies Bombing Afghanistan's Takhar Province

LD1104095795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0928 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Apr—Planes of the Russian Air Force have not been mounting raids upon the north Afghan province of Takhar. Reports released by some foreign agencies to the effect that last Sunday, four Russian aircraft bombed the province, are at variance with reality. This was stated to the ITAR-TASS correspondent today at the Russian Air Force Press Center.

At the Russian Defense Ministry's Information and Press Administration, it was also announced that Russian warplanes did not make any combat flights last Sunday in areas adjoining the Tajik- Afghan border.

Tajikistan: Better Defenses Needed Against Hardline Rebels

LD1004171395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax)—The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshov has categorically ruled out the possibility of the withdrawal of the CIS joint peacekeeping force from Tajikistan or Russian border guards from the Tajik-Afghan border.

In a Monday interview with Interfax he said that on the contrary additional steps would be taken to strengthen defenses on the frontier.

The diplomat denounced the latest provocative attacks of Tajik opposition militants on Russian border guards. "This is extra blood that can only aggravate the situation in and around Tajikistan and undermine the inter-Tajik dialogue," he stressed.

According to Chernyshov, during last week's visit to Moscow by the deputy chairman of the opposition Islamic Renaissance Movement Akbar Turajonzoda warned Russia about the possibility of such actions. "The Russian side was categorically opposed (to this) and urged the opposition to resume inter-Tajik talks to settle all disputes," the deputy minister said.

However, the latest developments on the Tajik-Afghan border indicate that hardliners are taking the upper hand in the opposition, he thinks.

Chernyshov said that on Monday the Russian Foreign Ministry will issue a tough statement on the continuing armed attacks of Tajik militants on Russian border guards.

The deputy minister also condemned the connivance of the Afghan authorities with the Tajik opposition which permits the militants to attack border units from areas in Afghanistan they control.

At the same time Moscow still believes that common sense will prevail in the Tajik opposition and it will soon return to the discussion of the time and place of the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Political Issues

'Political' Demands To Feature in 12 Apr Union Action

MM1104132895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Stepovoy: "Day of United Trade Union Action or Day of Further Deception of Working People?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 12 April over 60 regional trade union associations and 30 sectoral trade unions are ready to participate in a collective protest action scheduled by the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR]. On the appointed day rallies and marches will take place throughout the country, and it is planned to picket the White House in Moscow and oblast and city administration buildings.

Certain regional trade union associations have decided not to confine themselves just to economic demands but to advance political ones too. Thus, the St. Petersburg intersectoral strike committee intends to march along Nevskiy Prospekt with slogans calling for the government's resignation and for the Russian presidential election to be held this year.

The regional trade union leaders' initiative places FITUR Chairman Mikhail Shmakov in an extremely awkward position. The ink has not yet dried on the FITUR General Agreement signed by employers and the government, but one of the partners in the treaty is demanding the other's resignation.

The influential mass "Sotsprof" association has refused to participate in FITUR's April action. "Sotsprof" Chairman Sergey Khramov gave IZVESTIYA's correspondent this explanation of his trade union's official position:

"It is undoubtedly necessary to repay the wage arrears. But the goal must be achieved by quite different means. First, by vigorous actions by trade unions in their own enterprises against their own employers, since there is quite a lot of confirmation that the arrears problem is not an economic problem but a criminal one. Second, it is necessary to elaborate in the government an efficient mechanism for conveying budget funds directly to the working people, and not to the sectors, as now."

Otherwise, the "Sotsprof" leader emphasized, the deception of working people will continue. Here it is appropriate to recall that back at the end of last year the government allocated half as much funds again to repaying the wage arrears. Three trillion rubles were sent to the coal industry alone from November through January, but as early as February strikes commenced in mines. We can only guess at where these huge sums went and the purposes for which they were used.

But FITUR seems to be more concerned not with this problem but with the aims, which go far beyond trade union activity proper. This threatens to bring about additional tension in society and a socially hot springtime. Or is this FITUR's chief aim?

Trade Unions Prepare For United Actions

LD1104162495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lilia Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—Seventy-four regions of Russia and nine independent trade unions have agreed to take part in the April 12 day of united actions in behalf of the working people, ITAR-TASS was told at the press service of the Federation of Russian Free Trade Unions. Messages of support and solidarity have already been received from sixteen foreign trade union centres and national specialised unions, and also from four international and regional organisations.

According to information possessed by the federation's leadership, the regions are making vigorous preparations for the action. A meeting of trade union activists from Altay territory has decided to hold in Barnaul on April 12 a large rally in defence of the rights of the working people. It will also demand the government's resignation and the adoption of a new policy to improve the living standards of the people. A decision was also adopted to call a one-day token strike. The teachers of Altay territory have called a termless strike, which is to begin on April 10.

A demonstration and meeting of working people from St. Petersburg and Leningrad region will be held on April 13. The working people of Kuzbas plan to hold a protest meeting in Kemerovo against the deterioration of the population's socio-economic standards. However, the regional administration has not allowed the meeting to be held in the city's central square. A regional termless strike of miners is already under way in the Maritime territory (the Russian far east). They demand the payment of the wages owed to them by the state. Moreover, meetings will be held in the major cities and industrial centres of the territory on April 12. Work will be stopped everywhere for two hours.

A meeting of representatives from the trade unions of Saratov Defence Enterprises also passed a decision to take part in the protest action. A demonstration and meeting of working people will take place in Saratov on April 12. In addition to this, it is planned to picket the building of the local administration for two days running. Similar decisions were adopted by the trade unions of Khabarovsk territory, the Chita, Amur, and Kamchatka regions. The trade unions of Tambov and region plan to hold a meeting with representatives of the local authorities on April 12. The working people of Samara also insists on a meeting with the head of the local administration.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In addition to meetings and rallies, the Moscow working people plan to picket the building of the Russian Government. The 5,000 people taking part in this action plan to demand the payment of the wages still owed to them, measures to stop the recession, and the correction of the ongoing reforms so that they would meet the interests of the working people.

President Yeltsin Arrives in Kabardino-Balkaria

LD1104080995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0716 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Kepkeyev and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nalchik, April 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday morning [11 March] arrived for a familiarisation tour of Kabardino-Balkaria, Northern Caucasus.

The president is scheduled to visit an exhibition of the republic's best industrial products and farm produce, attend a horse-race for the prize instituted by the president of the Russian Federation, and walk around the republic's centre for children. The president will hear a report on Kabardino-Balkaria's social programmes.

The president and Mrs. Yeltsin will lay flowers to the monument commemorating the unification of Kabarda and Russia.

The programme of the visit also provides for a trip towards the Elbrus, one of the highest peaks of the Northern Caucasus. The president will take part in a hunt and then join an observation round on board a helicopter.

Decree on Kabardino-Balkar Free Trade Zone Signed

LD1104122095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Kipkayev and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nalchik April 11 TASS—President Yeltsin has signed a decree on the creation of a free trade zone in Kabardino-Balkaria. He announced it, responding to a question of ITAR-TASS. The decree was signed during Yeltsin's meeting with senior executives of local industrial enterprises, held after his visit to the exhibition of manufactured and agricultural goods, produced by the republic.

Yeltsin in Nalchik: No Decision Yet on Running For Office

LD1104163795 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Report by correspondent A. Onosovskiy on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Nalchik on 11 April, including recorded remarks by Boris and Naina Yeltsin in Nalchik; introduction by announcer—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Russian President Yeltsin, who is still on holiday in the Caucasus, temporarily left his home in Sochi today for the town of Nalchik. [passage omitted]

[Onosovskiy] The first item on Yeltsin's program was a visit to the republican industrial exhibition. The exhibition—according to the organizers at least—was not just for show. Many exhibits attracted the president's attention - for example a water purifying system made by the Nalchik tekhnopribor enterprise.

[Naina] In Moscow they are all trying to get American, German purifying [systems]...

[Yeltsin, interrupting] Why on earth are we buying French water? We, who have such technology and the Baykal? And we still [buy] French water...

[Naina, laughing] Who are you asking? [passage omitted containing report on exhibits]

[Onosovskiy] After viewing the exhibition, Boris Yeltsin approached journalists.

[Unidentified journalist] Will you run for office?

[Yeltsin] I have not taken a decision yet.

[Journalist] Thank you.

Further on Possible Yeltsin Bid for Presidency

LD1104170695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NALCHIK, April 11 (Interfax)—President Yeltsin has not yet decided whether to run for the presidency.

Asked by journalists about the likelihood that he will participate in the presidential elections, during a press conference in Nalchik (capital of Kabardino-Balkaria where he arrived on Tuesday to acquaint with the region), Yeltsin said, "I have not taken any decision yet." Presidential election are scheduled for June 1996.

Meanwhile, an informed source close to the Russian president, preferring anonymity, said that the question of Yeltsin's participation in the forthcoming presidential elections had been practically settled, so "it only remains for his team to decide when to announce this decision and in what form."

He told Interfax on Tuesday that the decision "has not come as a surprise." "Russia has enough social forces the president can count on if they unite," he said.

"To emerge victorious from the 1996 elections, Yeltsin will not have to form any special presidential party, as long as his team manages to solve the Chechen problem, avoid new conflicts in the potentially-dangerous regions

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the CIS, conclude a wide-reaching treaty with Ukraine, overcome inflation, push the country further along the road of economic and social reforms," he said.

He said neither Yeltsin nor his team will exert efforts to prolong the president's stay in office, except during presidential elections. "Firstly, Yeltsin is a democrat and secondly, he is an astute politician, who understands the difference between Russia and the countries where such moves may bring about expected results."

As the election campaign has practically started in Russia, Yeltsin will not be slow in announcing his decision, said the source. In his opinion, Yeltsin may announce his decision while answering questions posed by the Russian media, during his leave on the Black Sea coast.

"Yeltsin is likely to do so before the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of victory over fascism, so that he will meet statesmen during the Moscow celebrations as the most probable candidate to the presidential post until the end of the century," he said.

To back up his words, the source referred to similar statements made lately by chief of the presidential staff Sergey Filatov and the president's aide Aleksandr Livshits.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss 'Personnel Questions'

LD1104100195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0834 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Kepkeyev and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nalchik, 11 Apr—"I have been discussing personnel questions with Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin," the ITAR-TASS correspondents were told by the Russian president today, referring to yesterday's telephone conversation with the head of government. However, the president he did not specify exactly what possible changes are involved.

The president, who arrived in the capital of Kabardino-Balkaria Nalchik from Sochi today, said that he also exchanged opinion with the premier on the results of Russia's economic development in the first quarter of this year.

"They are not bad at all," Yeltsin stressed, adding that according to forecasts for the future, "inflation should fall."

Yeltsin noted that during his spring holiday he is actively working on documents and also discussing current problems with Chernomyrdin, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov.

"With Luzhkov I discussed the progress of preparations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory, which are almost complete," the president said.

Electoral Commission Head Ryabov Interviewed

MM1104100695 Moscow TRUD in Russian 8 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Central Electoral Commission, recorded by Nikolay Kishkin at TRUD editorial office; date not given: "We Will Have Elections. But When and How?"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] That is what TRUD journalists asked Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, at a meeting in the editorial office.

As every month brings us closer to December, when parliamentary elections must be held under the Constitution, society is debating increasingly vigorously: Will they be held at all? How many proposals have we heard—postpone them for a couple of years, hold them early, hold them simultaneously with the presidential election. Even the president's unequivocal statement in his Message to the Federal Assembly has not put an end to the arguments. Having gotten used to all kinds of political cataclysms in the last few years, we are all waiting for the next dirty trick, especially as the forces opposing the current authorities are doing all they can to engender uncertainty about this. That is why at the meeting the other day with the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission we asked straight out:

[Kishkin] Nikolay Timofeyevich, will the elections take place or not, will your commission not be left redundant?

[Ryabov] I am sure that the elections will take place at the stipulated times and that they will be held on the basis of the law and not an edict. Although in the next two months the hard road of elaborating this law still lies ahead. If it is passed and comes into force everything else will happen automatically. It even contains what I would call a safety-net provision, which runs: If the president does not call elections at the times stipulated by law, this will be done by the Central Electoral Commission.

Thus, the ball is in the legislators' court—the country needs a law, and no later than when deputies disperse for the parliamentary recess. Otherwise it will not be possible to keep within the time scales.

You know that the draft law has been adopted in the State Duma and must now be considered in the Federation Council. Not everything will be easy here. Suffice to say that in the Duma alone there were 937 amendments to the document—no other draft law has amassed even half that number.

There is a snag in the draft law which will become the subject of serious disputes—it is the ratio between the number of deputies elected from party lists, that is to say in a single federal electoral district for the whole country, and the number of deputies elected in single-seat districts. In the first case the voter votes for a whole list all

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

at once, as a rule knowing only the leaders and not all the people named on the list. In the second case voting is for specific people, between whom the citizen chooses. The president and many deputies have proposed a ratio of 150:300 in favor of single-seat districts. Whereas in the draft law a different number has been adopted—225:225, that is to say the voter will see only half the candidates "in the flesh."

It is entirely possible that the upper chamber will not support this, and then there would have to be a conciliation commission and another consideration of the draft law in the Duma. In any case legislators must understand their responsibility: Because failure to adopt the law will simply wreck the elections and will not enhance the standing of parliamentarians.

[Kishkin] Will the president not intervene in the matter with his "veto"?

[Ryabov] I was the president's representative in the Duma and just before the second reading I met with Boris Nikolayevich. At the time he instructed me to campaign for a 150:300 ratio as being fairer. So far he has not expressed his attitude toward the other version adopted by the Duma. Evidently he wants to know the position of parliament as a whole, of both its chambers, and only then make up his mind. But it seems to me that if parliament adopts the law the president will not use his right of "veto," because this would mean that either the elections would have to be held again under an edict or they would have to be postponed for an indefinite period. Yes, in December 1993 the election procedure was defined by edict, but there were force majeure circumstances then and society accepted this. But now? No, a law is needed, even if it does not satisfy everyone. But parliamentarians will have to assume responsibility for this.

[Kishkin] The other day a party leader stated the intention to propose a referendum on extending the president's powers instead of having elections.

[Ryabov] I do not know where he got that information from. Or whether it existed at all or was simply political games. At any rate it is complete news to me. I do not want to offend our neighbors but I completely fail to understand where this political novelty has come from. When the term has ended you hold elections. What has a referendum got to do with it? Who has invented this and why?

[Kishkin] Because a referendum is probably cheaper?

[Ryabov] Of course. It would be cheaper not to have a parliament and not to elect anybody at all. It would be cheapest of all to send part of the population into camps and pay nothing and put the other part on labor-days—hey presto, the monetary unit stabilizes and we will have the cheapest system.

[Kishkin] But those who are calling for the elections to be postponed are putting forward all kinds of arguments....

[Ryabov] But not the kind of arguments that could justify it. For example, it is said that a block of acts which are very important to society awaits us and the elections will interrupt the legislative process. So what? Will there not be any important draft laws in a year or two years?

Or there is this argument: The situation in society is uneasy, therefore it is more advisable to postpone the elections and stabilize the situation first. What stabilization are we talking about? In fact, the failure to hold elections will hand the forces opposing the current authorities such arguments on a plate, they will wage such a fierce struggle that there will be no question of any stabilization.

No, if society starts taking account of all kinds of arguments or references to advisability instead of legality, it must first abandon the aim it has set itself—that of building a rule-of-law state—and abandon the Constitution. This would be a blow to our strategic aims.

That is why politicians must make every effort to eliminate all problems and ensure that the elections are held at the constitutional times.

[Kishkin] So, do you believe that free, democratic elections will be held in our country?

[Ryabov] My reply will probably seem paradoxical to you, especially coming from the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. But it is my opinion that there will not be free, democratic elections in our country for a long time. Not because the legislation is imperfect or electoral commissions are working badly. They will not happen because we do not have voters. People who possess the right of election cannot fully realize it because in our political reality it is hard for them to work out who is who. Most of our parties are in an embryonic state. Ten, 20, 100 people represent this or that party in an entire Federation component—that is a joke in an electorate of 100 million. These parties are finding their feet, but unfortunately mainly in Moscow offices. The voter does not know what to expect from them. Just look at the metamorphoses undergone by parties of the democratic wing—they merge, they split. Or take the communist parties—so many splits and reorientations. The voter does not know what to expect from a particular party in a month or in a year, how it will behave in a certain situation. Many look just the same and make the same promises. Superficially things may look fine but essentially the voter is not acting as the creator of power.

Who is to blame for this? Nobody. It is simply an objective reality. People themselves are least of all to blame. Therefore to say that we have, quote, a politically unaware voter who does not go to elections—all that is nonsense. For example, I think there is little to distinguish between a person who goes to a polling station without knowing anything or who to vote for, and a person who stays at home, saying: I do not trust any of them.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

So there will be truly free, democratic elections when we have gone down the definite road of establishing a political culture in society, when every voter will be able to vote completely consciously and not just under the influence of the current social mood. Therefore the 150:300 ratio could be a step down this road, whereby candidates proposed by parties would go among the people, achieve recognition from them, be associated with voters, and be responsible to them, whereby we would avoid conserving "pint-sized parties." But at the moment under the draft law a candidate who has lost in a single-seat district can safely get into the Duma from the party list. Moreover, as the recent elections in the regions showed, many candidates were registered as independent and did not advertise their party affiliation. What kind of free elections are these? We have a long, long way to go to them.

[Kishkin] We are all talking about Duma and presidential elections. But what will eventually happen regarding the formation of the upper chamber—the Federation Council?

[Ryabov] Maybe the passage of this draft law will be even more complex. It does not envisage the election of Federation Council deputies directly by citizens. Let me remind you that under the Constitution the upper chamber is formed on the principle of two representatives from every Federation component. One from the representative branch and the other from the executive. Although this principle could be implemented in different ways, the draft law stalled on the most obvious thing: Each branch is to appoint members of the upper chamber from among its ranks, and not necessarily the top people. Bearing in mind that the current Federation Council to a considerable extent consists of deputies who do not hold power in oblasts and republics, it is still not known how they will react to this version of the draft law. Of course, parliamentarians could look for another version, but here again the time factor will come into play: There is a catastrophic lack of time for long searches—the law must be adopted before summer.

As you can see, there is still a considerable amount of work to be done to ensure that the elections take place on time.

Derzhava Nominates Rutskoy as Presidential Candidate

LD0204161695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 2 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—Russia's social patriotic movement Derzhava nominated former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy as its candidate for the 1996 Russian presidential elections.

At its congress in Moscow on Sunday, Derzhava also decided to run in the December 1995 parliamentary elections as an independent electoral association since, as Rutskoy put it, "all attempts by the so-called opposition to unite have failed because of the snobbism of its leaders."

Rutskoy stressed that his party will not form any coalition with the "nomenclatura leaders of the communist party." At the same time, he said that "we are open to cooperation and continuous and diligent work with rank-and-file communists."

A resolution adopted by the congress said that Russian President "Boris Yeltsin's activity causes direct damage to Russian statehood." Therefore "he must be removed from his post through free presidential elections in June 1996."

Rutskoy said that if he becomes a new Russian president, he will abolish territorial subjects within the Russian Federation, introduce a unitary state system and reunite Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

"The Russian state should be restored within its natural historic boundaries. The reunification of the three Slav peoples within an integral Russian state will lay a foundation for this," he said in his speech to the congress.

Rutskoy expressed the doubt that presidential elections will take place as scheduled in the summer of 1996, saying that the information he has indicates that the administration is preparing a draft decree on a nationwide referendum on the extension of Yeltsin's term for another four years.

Rutskoy appeared to be particularly displeased with the lack of mass discontent in Russia, whose "anti-popular regime" has "spat in the face" of the people whom he described as the "Russian brute."

He said that his party has over 900,000 members, including such organisations as the Russian Christian Democratic Movement of Viktor Aksyuchits, the All-Russia People's Right-Wing Center, the Christian Patriotic Union, and the people's patriotic movement Vozrozhdeniye Derzhavy (Revival of the State) led by Viktor Kobelev, a former member of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic party of Russia.

Rutskoy was President Yeltsin's running mate in the 1991 presidential elections. However, later he joined forces with the opposition Supreme Soviet and led an armed revolt in Moscow in October 1993. After the mutiny had been suppressed, Rutskoy was arrested and put in the former KGB's detention center in Lefortovo. However, several months later he was released by an amnesty declared by the State Duma in February 1994.

Economic Freedom Party Leader To Run for Presidency

LD0404201995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1951 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 4 (Interfax)—Konstantin Borovoy, leader of the Economic Freedom Party, told Interfax Tuesday [4 April] that he will run for presidency.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He said that he did not really wish to be a president or an MP but he wanted to live in a decent country and so decided to run so as not to let fascists and communists return to power.

Borovoy believed that the democratic forces should nominate a joint candidate for presidency.

He said that they should set up an electoral bloc just because some of the democratic organizations are likely to win less than 5

of the votes and so remain unrepresented in the State Duma, the Russian parliament's lower house.

Borovoy said that the regional rating of his party is very high. It is the only democratically-oriented organization represented in the legislatures of certain regions.

Borovoy said that if he comes to power he would not make any drastic changes, because the country needs predictability and calm.

Free Labor, Consolidation Parties Form Election Alliance

LD0404133895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1241 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 4 (Interfax)—The Russian Party of Free Labor and the Party of Consolidation have expressed readiness to form an election alliance, Chairman of the Party of Consolidation Aleksandr Tikhonov told a press conference in Moscow on Tuesday.

He said both parties shared centrist views and did not support either the left-wing or right-wing parties. "We decided to act together because our positions are very strong in the regions. We are regional parties, rather than central ones," he said.

Chairman of the Russian Party of Free Labor Ivan Kivelidi stated that the new alliance "will count on the support of those who advocate a socially-oriented mixed economy, equal development of all forms of property and dynamic socioeconomic development."

Both leaders told the press conference that the official name of the alliance will be announced after it is joined by "other political parties, public organizations, trade unions and charity societies which have volunteered to cooperate."

Further on New Electoral Bloc

MK0504094395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov under the "Elections" rubric: "Party of Consolidation and Party of Free Labor Create an Election Association"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Tikhonov, chairman of the Party of Consolidation [PC], and Igor Korovikov, chairman of the Russian Party of Free Labor [RPFL], announced yesterday the creation of an election association whose objective is "the consolidation of statehood, the growth of the people's well-being, and the recreation of a public atmosphere of charity and mutual support." In the words of Mr. Tikhonov, the base of the new bloc, in addition to the PC and RPFL, will be formed by several regional associations and public organizations. In his turn, Mr. Kivelidi, chairman of the "Business of Russia" "roundtable," stated that Irina Khakamada may take part in the project. The election association disagrees with proposals to postpone the presidential and parliamentary elections and is inclined to preserve the existing system of proportional-majority representation in the State Duma.

The new association is advocating a socially oriented mixed economy, equal development of all forms of property, and social partnership.

Filatov Says Talks of Election Postponement 'Irresponsible'

LD0404140095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1241 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 4 (Interfax)—Sergey Filatov, chief of the Russian president's administration, described as an "irresponsible publicity stunt" statements by the leader of the Derzhava movement, former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy and a number of other politicians, about Kremlin's plans to postpone presidential elections and hold a referendum on giving Boris Yeltsin extended powers.

In an interview with Interfax Tuesday, Filatov refuted claims "about drafting all sorts of decrees" and said that his administration "does not have anything on its mind than preparation for elections and implementation of appropriate provisions in the presidential message to the Federal Assembly."

In his annual address to the Federal Assembly, the president pledged that elections will take place in 1996. So when "someone casts a shadow on the presidential administration, on his aides, and thereby on Yeltsin himself," that can only be construed as an irresponsible action, Filatov said, adding that "it would be impossible for the president to go back on his word and on the course he proclaimed over two months."

"One should not trust those who stir society and who instead of caring about society cares about himself only," Filatov warned.

He regretted that "Russian legislation lacks a clause, envisaging punishment for such reckless statements."

Rebuts Election Postponement 'Fabrications'

MM0504134595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Lyubov Tsukanova: "Rumors Are Being Spread To Maintain Tension in Society"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Filatov has described as "irresponsible" Rutskoy's statement claiming that the Russian Federation Presidential Staff is preparing for a referendum on extending Boris Yeltsin's powers, i.e. virtually postponing the election. Replying to a question from ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent, the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff decisively rejected this claim, declaring that not only was nothing like this being prepared but, on the contrary, the Staff's Expert Analysis Council had advocated that the president not delay signing electoral laws, because this might worsen the sociopolitical situation to a certain extent. Everything must be done, Sergey Filatov said, to ensure that everything proceeds normally, and society must be given the opportunity to start the process of preparing for the election campaign. Therefore, S. Filatov said, "these fabrications have nothing in common with what is actually being done in the Staff."

The leader of the Presidential Staff attributed the appearance of such rumors to the desire of irresponsible politicians to maintain tension in society and also to draw attention to themselves—which is why falsifications, rumors, and suspicions are being put to work. "I believe that no one has spoken out on this question more definitely than the president. If the president says in his message to the deputies and the whole country that the elections will take place, but after the president's statement someone—Rutskoy or someone else—casts such aspersions on his Staff and his entourage, then these are simply irresponsible people." Sergey Filatov voiced regret that there is no provision in our legislation under which this could be punishable. "We must not alarm society but show concern for it." If politicians do not show concern for society, then, in Sergey Filatov's opinion, they are most likely thinking only of themselves and of nothing else.

In reply to a question about how he sees the prospect for the law on State Duma elections to get through the Federation Council, Sergey Filatov said that, according to his information, the Federation Council might "hold back" this law—which makes the Staff leader concerned. Sergey Filatov does not consider it correct to adjust electoral law to the current political situation (as is known, voices are calling for a change in the correlation in State Duma elections in favor of the majority system—L.Ts.), and it is wrong to change the rules of play each year. Sergey Filatov acknowledges that there are certain political forces which will pressure the president too, but he himself does not believe that the question of the correlation of the number of deputies elected from party lists and from majority districts can be the object of a presidential veto.

Sergey Filatov commented that help should be given right now to create a multiparty structure and to go over to a normal system, which can offer people several options for development. "The state does not engage in ideology nowadays. So this must be handed over to the parties—they must unite those sections of society which adhere to common positions on particular questions." Otherwise, the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff believes, we will approach the point where a strong-arm party or, as it is called, a "party of power" will shape the election campaign. This is borne out by the experience of the elections to representative organs of power in the components of the Federation, where fewer than 15 percent of the deputies were elected along party lines. This means that the majority of the deputies in the representative organ will have neither a concept nor a program that is at all integrated.

Shumeyko: Federation Council Likely To Reject Election Bill

LD0504161095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 5 (Interfax)—The upper chamber of the Russian parliament is likely to reject the elections bill submitted by the State Duma, visiting chairman of the upper parliament chamber Vladimir Shumeyko told an exclusive Interfax interview today.

One reason for this is that the bill preserves the old principle of Duma elections: equal weight being given to the majoritarian system and party lists, said Shumeyko. The Federation Council supports the compromise proposed by the Russian president: to elect two-thirds of parliament members on the basis of the majoritarian system and one third on party lists. "The compromise reached by the two parliament chambers would be the best way out of the situation," said the speaker.

The lower parliament chamber may try to vote down the Senate veto, but it is not likely to achieve the necessary two-thirds vote, said Shumeyko. "They will not gain the 300 votes," he added.

"If the Duma meets our proposals halfway, we would have a chance to avoid a legal dead-end, which is especially undesirable before the elections," said the official. Speaking of the parliament and presidential elections, Shumeyko noted that they "must be carried out in strict adherence with the Constitution."

Major Russian Banks Financing Liberal Democratic Party

LD0404094195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Eduard Popov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok April 4 TASS—Some large Russian banks participate in financing the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] but do not want to be indentified yet. This admission was made at a party conference of the maritime territorial organisation of the LDPR by its chief-coordinator Yevgeniy Bolshakov, deputy of the Russian State Duma.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bolshakov said Russian entrepreneurs are attracted by the programme of the LDPR which envisages preserving a multi-mode economy and a protectionist policy regarding domestic business. A fixed share of income from business activity should be invested in social programmes and high-tech, Bolshakov said.

A new plan of privatisation proposed by economists of the LDPR as an alternative to the Chubays version of privatisation was also read out at the party conference. The essence of the new privatisation plan is to bring back to Russia the monetary equivalent of the value of all Russian realty abroad. LDPR experts estimated that around 300 billion dollars can be restored to Russia through the implementation of the project.

Moroz Analyzes Russia's 1996 Presidential Contest

954F1980A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 13, 29 Mar 95 p 11

[Article by Oleg Moroz: "Who Will Be Governing Us on 15 July 1996? Yeltsin? Chernomyrdin? Luzhkov? Yavlinskiy? Zhirinovskiy? Zyuganov?..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last fall it was Shannon. This winter, Almaty....

The world press is discussing in lively fashion this latest odd episode, at the center of which was the president of Russia. The magazine NEWSWEEK: "Yeltsin's periods of self-control are becoming increasingly infrequent.'We are, naturally, concerned,' an official American representative declared." THE NEW YORK TIMES: "Yeltsin's uncertain behavior in Almaty at the meeting of leaders of the 12 former Soviet republics appears shocking and puzzling. At a time when his leadership has been weakened as a result of the attack on Chechnya, a staggering Yeltsin is desperately clutching onto his aides, attempting to stay on his feet. Following several evasive answers to questions about his health, Yeltsin owes both his country and the world a sincere account on this subject. Following the Almaty incident, it has gone beyond the framework of guarded diplomatic conversation, inasmuch as Yeltsin's capacity for leading the state will henceforward be in question. Yeltsin is coming to resemble Brezhnev, Andropov, and Chernenko, making his health a state secret."

Whatever view is taken of all this, the heart of the matter is unequivocal. We have found ourselves in a hopeless situation. Who knows in what state the Chechnya decision was adopted, for example? Or take the recent business involving the Norwegian meteor-missile. Everyone suddenly remembered that by Yeltsin's side there is always the nuclear football. It was as though he himself had just suddenly discovered it. And with what childish delight he described how dexterously—with the aid of the military—he had put all the nuclear forces in a state of operational readiness. After, it is true, it had been ascertained that the launch of the Norwegian rocket had beenknownforat least a month, there was no cause for alarm. Yet when these two phenomena—the nuclear football and, let us say, the president's rocky health—are juxtaposed, this is hair-raising.

Essentially, if the defeat of Russian democracy is conclusive and irreversible, it could be said perfectly well, without going into details, that it was caused by some particular trait of a single individual. Just as, for that matter, the defeat of communism on an expanse of half the world occurred thanks to another particular feature (or features) of another individual (I am perfectly well aware that this truth is utterly unacceptable to learned gentlemen whose name is legion. For it cannot be developed not only in learned tomes or volumes of dissertations, but even in a tiny paragraph. Nonetheless, this truth is true).

It may, of course, be assumed in the wake of that tactful NEW YORK TIMES, always sympathetic toward the Russian president, that Yeltsin's "odd" behavior had been caused by some medical preparations taken to ease his back pain. But it would be good to know this for a fact. The custom, for that matter, of classifying everything that concerns the health of leaders in Russia is more long-standing and permanent than it would appear to the American press.

The NEW YORK TIMES is in error elsewhere also—when it assures us that "Moscow political tradition rejects wounded leaders." Perhaps New York political tradition rejects this; Moscow certainly does not. Brezhnev, Andropov, and Chernenko were toward the end of their life not simply "wounded," but absolutely incapable and could barely drag one foot after the other; nonetheless, they happily departed this life without any rejection, remaining in their high office until their last breath. "Moscow political tradition" consists rather in the leader's functions, as his capability wanes, being picked up to an increasingly great extent and assumed by his immediate entourage. Rule **on behalf** of the incapable leader begins, so to speak.

Of course, there can be no question of some prudent, consistent government of the state here, of forward progress, of the reform of the country even less. The main task of the leader's entourage governing on his behalf is self-preservation, self-survival, and the maximum prolongation of its own existence.

It is this property of the entourage and its aspiration to extend the term of its existence at all costs, evidently, that explain first and foremost the intention that has been expressed as of late to prolong the term of the present ruler's presidency.

I understand that talk about Yeltsin's health today is malapropos, as it were: He has regained his form, seemingly, has once again been glimpsed fleetingly on the television screens.... Meetings and speeches, talks and negotiations.... A visit to the Malyy Theater.... The appeal to women....: A gallant kiss of the hands of 80-year-old leading ladies of the screen.... But this has

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

happened before more than once. A brief period of activity is followed by a profound blank. The president not only disappears somewhere for a long time, but disorder and altercations begin throughout the machinery of state. Life, meanwhile, takes its course. It does not measure itself unduly against the ups and downs of the Yeltsin sinusoid. Most important decisions frequently have to be adopted in its most unsuitable, lowest, phase. The most important perception, however, and not only with NEWSWEEK, is that the sinusoid is now losing symmetry altogether: The rises are becoming shorter and shorter, the falls, increasingly prolonged and deep.

But if not Yeltsin, who? In a recent conversation with me, Sergey Yushenkov, under the impress of the Chechen slaughter, brushed aside this question as something ridiculous: "Whoever you like! Anyone would be better...."

To the direct question of the Public Opinion Foundation: "Whom would you like to see as the future president of Russia?" a majority of those polled went for Yavlinskiy. In second place, at a palpable distance, was Zhirinovskiy, in third place, Zyuganov, and then, with an identical number of points, Gaydar, Lebed, Rutskoy....

But the percentage of votes cast for these figures was too insignificant for us to be able to judge with certainty who has realistic chances of the presidency. This is the first round of the presidential elections, as it were. No one obtained an absolute preference. Yavlinskiy, 14 percent of the votes. Zhirinovskiy, 6 percent. Zyuganov, 5. Gaydar, Lebed, Rutskoy, 4 each. Yeltsin, even less, 3 percent. The entry "I would not want to see any of these politicians as the future president" enjoyed the most popularity among the electorate. So we will consider that as of January and the start of February, the majority of Russian voters wants as president of Russia "Mr Nobody." Some variety of Lieutenant Kizhe.

Still, Grigoriy Alekseyevich Yavlinskiy is in first place. He has long mustered a high rating. As far as I understand it, he prizes it highly. He works hard for it. That is, he is constantly appearing on TV and radio and in the newspapers. Our citizens have taken a liking to him for something or other. For what? His cultured appearance, his clever, incomprehensible speeches, and, most important, the fact that there does not drag behind him, a perfectly competent economist, a tail of some serious practical activity in the sphere of economics. In other words, the citizens have no reason to place on him any responsibility for their calamitous material situation.

I saw Yavlinskiy on television recently at a reception given by German Chancellor Kohl. Hmm.... Kohl did not receive Gaydar. He made reference to his busy schedule. It is said that the chancellor has a fantastic nose for prospective politicians. It could be, for that matter, that it is the blessing and parting words of so significant a personage as Kohl that help some people acquire this very prospectiveness, and subsequently, to realize it.

Grigoriy Alekseyevich has changed his image, precisely according to the advice of the image makers: He has gotten a shorter haircut—he has ceased to be some free economics artist, some Vladimir Lenskiy recently returned from free-thinking Goettingen, and has come to resemble more Iosif Kobzon. A little while longer, and our contender candidate will in terms of outward appearance have become a respectable government bureaucrat, a sound and sedate statesman. Perhaps this new image of his repels some people, come to that. But it is probably attracting more: our kind of guy, not some curly-headed, long-haired youth. Whatever the case, everything indicates that the person has decided in earnest to move into the high state, political orbit. And he has, I have heard, begun to receive serious threats. Anonymous letters and all that. For today's times this is a true sign—it is, consequently, truly a serious business.

Even before Chechnya, Yavlinskiy was the sole person who, according to FOM [Public Opinion Foundation] polls, was winning from Yeltsin the second round of imaginary presidential elections. The count then was 23:12. Since Chechnya, there is no doubt at all that his advantage over the president who reigns at present has become even more considerable.

Were this second round—Yeltsin versus Yavlinskiy—to really take place, I would now unhesitatingly vote for Grigoriy Alekeyevich. But, despite all that, I cannot for the life of me imagine that such a person as Yavlinskiy could be president of such a country as Russia. I cannot, and that is all there is to it. I lack the imagination for this.

Aside from all else, the high probability of election fraud simply has to be borne in mind. A regime that unleashed the most brutal carnage in Chechnya and that has surrounded it with unprecedented lies is capable of anything.

Does the winner of the second prize—Zhirinovskiy—have great chances of becoming president? I do not think so. The shame that it experienced on 12 December 1993, having cast for this figure over 12 million votes, is sufficient for Russia. His election as president would mean that our fatherland had reached the inglorious end of its existence. And, most important, that it does not deserve any other fate.

But this is all just emotion. Russia will remain alive, even if fascism truly does reign in it. It will remain alive after fascism also. It would survive it. The whole question is at what price. Zhirinovskiy needs to be taken seriously. We should have been taught at least this by the bitter experience of the last elections. Unfortunately, the prevailing opinions of recent times—"Zhirinovskiy has passed the peak of his popularity among the lumpen" and "Everyone is repelled by the buffoonery and clowning of the 'lawyer's son'"—are working in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

opposite direction. In the direction of that same relaxation. Meanwhile, it is easier to imagine the chief "liberal democrat" in the Russian presidential chair than Yavlinskiy. His marginal electorate is firm in its affections for its idol. This may be judged if only by the public meetings that take place regularly on our days off in Sokolniki. The loudspeaker yelling is all over the neighborhood. There is no getting away from it. Zhirinovskiy's supporters are repelled neither by the fuehrer's fights in the lobbies of the Duma nor the rows in the meeting hall nor his public confessions of past exercises in onanism nor his attempts to talk cute overseas interviewers and local interpreters into group sex....

A recent forecast of the IZVESTIYA Analytical Center (reflecting the general intuitive perception, for that matter)—were the elections to be held now, the Reds would be victorious. We are talking about elections to the Duma. But this, of course, is an important step en route to the presidential elections also.

The frequently expressed doubts as to whether there will be elections seem altogether odd to me. Why should there not be elections to the Duma? This is the best way of ascertaining the apportionment of political forces in the country. No sociological surveys provide this clarification. But as regards the presidential elections, there really are doubts.

As far as the favorites of both elections are concerned, a certain discrepancy is observed here. The growth of affections for the communists conflicts with the none-too-high rating of their leaders who could lay claim to the presidency. The latter can hardly be seriously expected by, say, Comrade Zyuganov, the bronze medalist of the above-mentioned sociological poll—by dint of his archeologically Central Committee origins and the ineradicable impression that these origins have stamped on his entire personality and on his entire positive image of a fighter for the happiness of the working people. Some tokens of the Russian Communist Party's drift in the direction of social democracy have already appeared in party documents, but you look at Gennadiy Andreyevich himself, and you are convinced: No, here is that same CPSU Central Committee. It is as indelible as a tattoo.

Next on the popularity scale comes Gaydar. He is not laying claim to the presidency, it would seem. And is probably right not to do so. The electorate everywhere is primitive and brutal. The Russian electorate particularly. Its reasoning is simple: What kind of life do I have? The life of the majority is none too good. Who is to blame? Naturally, those who initiated all these perestroykas and reforms, screw them. Many people are inclined to compare how things were and how they stand now. There is just one criterion of the comparison here—prices and pay. There are few who take into consideration the fact that the stores used to be empty, and the lines, kilometers long, and that just about everything was rationed. But what is a line, in fact! When did it ever worry the Russian? If he has to stand there for half a day and buys a carton of milk for 16 kopeks, not over 3,000 rubles, as now, it is this, it seems to many people, that is the real "life." And it is this "life" of which they have now been deprived.

Could the fractious General Lebed lay claim to the presidency? Many people have a liking for this person. For his directness in his opinions of today's authorities and for his honesty, evidently. This is for today's times quite something, of course. But he also scares many people as a potential military dictator. And his positive political and economic programs are not, generally, as clear as the arsenal of his critical opinions. It is not even clear what this general's color is—red or white. There are straightforward and honest fighters in both camps. In any event, in order to conduct a full-fledged election campaign, he would have to part company with his shoulder boards (Pasha Mercedes would not tolerate his unloved subordinate contending for the supreme chair with his beloved chief). And without his shoulderboards and without his field uniform of member of an airborne assault force, General Lebed would forfeit a great deal of his charm.

Should Rutskoy be viewed seriously as a candidate for the presidential throne? Hardly. He has lost time. He has lost momentum, as the chess players say. He fell for too long out of the pack of political aces. He will hardly manage to jump back into this pack.

As far as Yeltsin is concerned.... We would recall that just 3 percent of those polled wish to see him president after 14 July of next year.... In the little more than a year that remains until the elections, he will, evidently—with the aid of his entourage—exert the maximum effort to enhance his popularity. He will attempt to once again show himself to be a vigorous statesman and will, of course, try to prevent a recurrence of anything like Shannon or Almaty. Such efforts are noticeable even now.

But should Yeltsin be elected for a new term, the maximum "relaxation" would undoubtedly set in immediately. For the motives for the opposite will have disappeared completely. Even greater standstill and stagnation would await the country in this case.

Faced with such a prospect, democrats feel themselves trapped. The person with whom they linked all their hopes, beginning with that October plenum of 1987, and whom they drove further and further and higher and higher—this person has essentially betrayed them. Generally, by all the laws of human relationships, they should pay him back in the same coin—deny him their support conclusively and irreversibly. But life is more complicated than these rudimentary calculations. We have to analyze what we are rejecting, and then what? Who might come to replace him? It is here that there is a total lack of clarity and uncertainty.

Gaydar said recently that he did not intend to support Yeltsin at the presidential elections in principle but

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

could change this position of his were he to see that the rival of the present president was even more dangerous. Many people will, as they go to the polls, undoubtedly reason the same way. And Yeltsin and his team will try to create such a situation deliberately, if they make up their minds to hold elections, and will try to ensure that the ballot paper contain alongside the name of Yeltsin an "even more dangerous" name.

The democrats are driving themselves into a trap, for that matter. By their passivity. By their apathy. By the fact that they have ceased to turn out for elections. They have strength. Hidden strength. It has not gone anywhere.

"According to our figures, approximately 35 percent of the electoral rolls is oriented toward democratic values," Igor Klyamkin, leader of the Analytical Center of the Public Opinion Foundation, said in conversation with me. "It is this part of the electorate that is most disenchanted with what has been happening in the country in recent years and disenchanted with the policy of the figures on whom it had been counting and whom it had brought to power. These people are expressing their disenchantment, in particular, in the fact that they are staying away from elections. Among those who stayed away from the polls in December 1993, one- third was composed of those who in 1991 had voted for Yeltsin. Supporters of the opposition—communist and nationalist—on the other hand, constitute approximately 25 percent of the overall electoral rolls. They turn out in strength, inasmuch as they have not had a chance to lose their faith in those for whom they vote: These figures have not yet been in power. So the results of both the parliamentary and presidential elections will depend to a considerable extent on whether voters of a democratic persuasion, who are currently in a state of apathy and lethargy, actually go to the polls."

In other words, our happiness lies in others' hands. I mean the democratic electorate. There are grounds for the disenchantment, of course. But if we give ourselves over to this feeling for too long and wallow in it, I am afraid that everything could altogether go to hell....

Both Yeltsin and Yavlinskiy will endeavor to pull these voters out of their torpor. For the present president, this altogether is the sole (slim) chance of being legitimately elected one more time.

I. Klyamkin:

"Yeltsin can win only if he once again mobilizes the so-called democratic electorate. The mission of Yeltsin's team may now be discerned quite clearly—to intimidate this part of the electorate and make them feel: If not Yeltsin, the communists and nationalists."

As far as Yavlinskiy is concerned, he should by December, even, have shown that he has achieved national leader status. Without this, he will be completely out of luck at the presidential elections, despite the present relatively high ratings.

"Aside from all else, the upcoming parliamentary elections are important as a test," I. Klyamkin believes. "They should show whether a figure who can reserve for himself the majority of this same 35 percent of the democratic electorate will appear on the democratic flank. The situation thus far is shaping up such that only Yavlinskiy has a realistic chance of this. If he obtains sufficient votes at the Duma elections, he could become a realistic democratic alternative at the presidential elections also. And, on the contrary, having obtained in December 3 or 4 percent of the vote, he would have nothing to look forward to six months later, in July, either...."

It stands to reason that Yavlinskiy is a most inconvenient rival for Yeltsin. They would be forced to fight for one and the same electorate, and Yavlinskiy's chances of winning this struggle, provided that they are [as published] fair and honest, are incomparably greater, what is more. So, objectively, the present president has an interest in getting this rival out of the game as early as possible, by any means. In the first round of the presidential elections. At the Duma elections, even better (this could happen of its own accord also, incidentally: We recall that Grigoriy Alekseyevich had high ratings in 1993 also, but the December Duma elections were for him at that time an unpleasant surprise: Yabloko obtained only slightly more than 7 percent of the vote).

I will say once again: I find it hard to believe that a "single candidate of the democratic forces," about which there is much talk at this time, will do any good. It is the wrong season. A movement of the political pendulum away from democracy is inevitable. It is important to prevent it swinging too far in this direction. Then in the next series, also inevitable, we will not have that far back to go.

For this reason not the worst scenario, most likely, would be a development of events in which Yeltsin's rival in 1996 is quite a moderate, quite an apolitical figure, a pragmatist, a person guaranteeing stability, at least. Not unduly compromised by Chechnya. It is clear that a person of the Chernomyrdin type most corresponds to these criteria today.

No, the electorate is not yet prepared to vote for such a figure. Twelve percent of those polled were agreeable to casting their votes for Chernomyrdin in January, according to a poll of the Public Opinion Foundation, 63 were not. But polls are polls, elections, elections. The electorate will be in a totally different frame of mind, most likely, in July 1996. It is not that things in the economy will have improved considerably by this time. There is little hope of this. But the voter will have an opportunity to compare Viktor Chernomyrdin with the other pretenders to the throne....

The paradox, however, is that the most "electable" presidential candidates, perhaps—Chernomyrdrin and Luzhkov—are simultaneously the most vulnerable figures also. These are public-payroll, dependent figures. It

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

would cost Yeltsin nothing to "move" them. However they prostrate themselves before him. Impulses moving in this direction—in the direction of "movement"—have long been perceived. Take if only Korzhakov's letter to the prime minister, with homilies on who should and who should not be admitted to the oil pipeline. And an out-and-out war has been unleashed against Luzhkov. The attack on the Most-Group, which supports him.... The removal of Savostyanov, chief of the Moscow department of the Federal Counterintelligence Service.... The campaign of exposure in the semi-official ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, which was manifestly inspired from above.... Yuriy Mikhaylovich had hardly had time to recover his breath and to restore the president's favorable disposition before, lo and behold, a new blow: Pankratov and Ponomarev are removed.... The procurator and the chief of the Internal Affairs Main Administration. The world press bluntly categorizes this as a shot at the "Moscow Party."

Although Luzhkov swears and crosses his heart that he is giving absolutely no thought to any presidential elections, Korzhakov and Barsukov have some secret-agent information, apparently: Yuriy Mikhaylovich or one of his associates somewhere incautiously let slip something of the sort.... Whence the so single-minded and dogged persecution of Moscow's mayor.

He as well, I am telling you, and so what even if a person really is thinking about (or has thought about) becoming a presidential candidate? How is this a sin? We live in a democratic society, seemingly. But just judge the degree of its democratism. And, simultaneously, the true strength of the desire of the present president to remain such for one further circuit.

I have no doubt that the same kind of attack as against Luzhkov will shortly be undertaken against Chernomyrdin also.

It would generally be best for Russia, possibly, were Yeltsin to voluntarily decline to run for a new term and to support the candidacy of Chernomyrdin as his political successor. Best from the viewpoint of stability and a certain continuity. Albeit not best from the viewpoint of continuation of the reforms. God knows what kind of reformer Chernomyrdin has shown himself to be. He pursues something akin to reforms merely upon incessant urging. Were he to become president, however, there would be no one to urge him.

I believe, though, that the version of a "smooth handover" of power will not happen. On the contrary, hard times await the "natural heirs" of the present president. Chernomyrdin and Luzhkov, I repeat, are Yeltsin's most dangerous rivals. Objectively the most dangerous. Regardless of their thoughts and intentions. But they are only dangerous "in their posts." Were they to be deprived of them and to be dispatched in good time on free sail into the political elements, they would be doomed to flounder helplessly in them. So it is clear to everyone what conclusion follows from this for the Yeltsin team.

There will, most likely, be no presidential elections. At the scheduled time. For the main threat to Yeltsin proceeds, for all that, not from competitors and rivals, but from the electorate itself. A pretext for putting off 14 July for two or three years, longer, perhaps, will be found without difficulty. Such a pretext could be an armed conflict like the Chechen conflict (we have, after all, seen how they are easily unleashed). Or some other extreme incident like the Listyev killing. That is, the circumstances that in a normal state would be sufficient for the resignation of the president could perfectly well in unfortunate, sick Russia be seized upon to extend his authority.

I have no doubt that Kremlin analysts are at this time modeling various versions of the situation that could take shape after the Duma elections, closer to the presidential elections. Optimum ways of how to cope with the coming possible events are being sought. I believe that the imposition of presidential rule is not the least improbable method of those that they are discussing.

National Unity Movement Leader Beaten in Attack

LD0304204895 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Video report by correspondent Ernest Matskiavichus with recorded remarks by Aleksandr Barkashov, leader of the Russian Unity movement and Aleksandr Sharusev, operational officer of the Moscow crime investigation department]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Tatyana Mitkova] The headquarters of Russian National Unity [RNU] were attacked today by unknown persons. However, members of the RNU assert they know who did it.

[Matskiavichus] At about 1730 today the headquarters of the Russian National Unity movement, which are about three minutes' walk from the Kremlin's Spasskiy gate, were subject to an armed attack. People in leather jackets beat up the leader of the movement Aleksandr Barkashov, handcuffed him and forced him to lie on the floor along with several of his allies. The victims say that five to seven attackers armed with pistols and Kalashnikov submachine-guns penetrated the premises of the RNU unhindered, and having rendered everyone harmless, took Barkashov to a separate room. They then shot him twice with blank cartridges and demanded that he reveal the location of Aleksey Vedenkin. The interrogation was being filmed on a video camera.

[Barkashov] I said I do not keep in touch with him, and that is why I do not know. However, according to newspapers, he is openly staying in a former government villa in Kurkino. The second question was that they demanded that I present my apologies, looking into the video camera, to all Jews, blacks, and Chechens whom I insult ethnically in my speeches. I answered by saying

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that I do not insult any ethnic groups in my speeches. So I was hit on the head with the butt of a submachine-gun.

[Matskiavichus] Leaving Barkashov lying in the corridor with his comrades-in-arms, the attackers broke all the telephones in the headquarters and disappeared. As we were filming this report, a police department team in charge of law and order in Red Square took the handcuffs off the RNU members and questioned the witnesses.

[Sharusev] The handcuff keys that we have did not fit so we had to cut the handcuffs off with special tools. This will be investigated. It is difficult to say anything for certain now.

[Matskiavichus] The RNU is planning to request that the leadership of the Interior Ministry and the Federal Counterintelligence Service take urgent steps to detain the attackers and bring order to Moscow. Failing this, said Barkashov, his movement will ensure its own security by its own methods.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Russia's Economic Situation

LD1004171095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1559 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, currently on a leave at the Black Sea Resort of Sochi, on Monday had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The president and premier discussed, among others, the social and economic situation in the country, the president's press service said.

Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin also discussed the progress of preparations for V-day festivities.

In addition, the prime minister informed the president of the erasures taken by the government to settle labour conflicts in certain regions.

It was noted during the conversation that Russia's aggregated industrial output last March increased by 6 per cent as compared to the previous month, the press service reported.

The two leaders also discussed the problems facing the Russian defence industry and the government's moves to solve them, as well as the situation in the country's agro-industrial complex.

New Legislation Covers Government Communication, Work

LD0304203295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 3 (INTERFAX)—President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree Monday on the development, manufacture, sales and operation of coding hardware and on services in the field of data encoding.

The government press service says that the document is designed to make the Russian legislation on federal bodies of government communication and information work, to combat organized crime and to improve the safety of data communication hardware operated by state bodies, financial and crediting structures, factories and organizations.

The decree:

- bans the use of by state organizations and industries of coding hardware which does not have a certificate of the Federal Agency of Government Communication and Information (FAPSI), reporting to the president;

- orders the Central Bank of Russia to penalize the commercial banks which do not use FAPSI-certified safe data storage, processing and transmission hardware;

- bans the activities of organizations and individuals in development, manufacture, sales and operation of coding hardware and safe data storage, processing and transmitting hardware without FAPSI licenses;

- bans the import of coding hardware without licenses cleared with the FAPSI.

State Controls Over Information Security Enacted

MK0504092795 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "State Monopoly on Cipher Clerk's Services To Be Introduced"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A special-purpose information-telecommunications system will be created in Russia in the very near future, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned. A Russian presidential edict gives the creation of such a system the status of a presidential program. The Federal Government Communications and Information Agency [FAPSI] has been tasked with carrying out the program.

The very same edict prohibits the use by state-run establishments of ciphering and technical facilities for storing, processing, and transmitting information, unless they are certified by FAPSI. This has been done out of the fear that insufficiently sophisticated cipher telecommunications systems may be easily penetrated by both foreign special services and criminal structures.

In the interests of Russia's information security and in order to step up the fight against crimes in the field of credit and finance relations, legal entities and individuals are also forbidden to engage in activities related to the development and the use of ciphering (including cryptographic) facilities and the provision of services in the field of information ciphering.

The customs service has been also tasked with taking measures prohibiting the importation into Russia of foreign-made ciphering devices without licenses from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In order that the edict be effectively carried out, the Federal Counterintelligence Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Department of the Tax Police, and the other law enforcement organs have been tasked with stepping up work to discover persons violating these requirements.

In addition to coercive pressure measures, there are also economic measures in effect. For example, it is forbidden to place state orders at enterprises that use uncertified technical and ciphering facilities. The Central Bank has been ordered to take measures in regard to Russian commercial banks evading compliance with the edict. To effect a closer contact with the Central Bank, FAPSI is creating a Federal Center of Economic Information Protection which will be seeing to the security of the country's banking structures.

FSK Uncovers 22 Agents of Foreign Special Services

LD3103195995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1550 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 31 (Interfax)—A total of 22 agents of foreign special services were revealed among Russian citizens last year as a result of operations carried out by Russia's Counterintelligence Service (FSK), the FSK Public Relations Center reported to Interfax Friday.

An FSK official noted that "employees in the Defense Industry Ministry and several other important departments presented special danger." Criminal charges of high treason in the form of espionage were brought against an employee of the joint stock company Spetsmashinostroenie and Metallurgiya and an assistant of the representative of the joint stock company Aeroflot in Zimbabwe. They had been recruited by foreign special services and had handed over secret information to them.

According to the FSK, counterintelligence officers have prevented about 60 attempts by Russian citizens to transfer secret materials to representatives of foreign states, some of them—to representatives of secret services.

"The widening intelligence and subversive activities of foreign special services presents a serious threat to Russia's national security," the FSK representative continued.

In his words, strategic plans of the Russian leadership in the sphere of foreign policy, the process of economic and military reforms, the state and prospects for the currency and financial system, development of the political situation in the country and in its separate regions, interethnic and other public conflicts are all issues foreign special services show keen interest in.

The FSK representative said that foreign special services show continuing interest in nuclear and other kinds of modern weapons, in the ongoing processes in the defense complex, in the developments in the field of advanced technologies and in the results of fundamental studies.

"We have noted activity by the intelligence services of Eastern European and Baltic states, which are controlled by Western special services. In addition, intelligence operations carried out by several Moslem countries, striving to exploit the national-religious factor in their work, acquire a rather dangerous nature," the FSK said.

The strength of several spy networks in Moscow does not reduce [decrease] but increases, and they actively use legal opportunities to carry out intelligence operations.

Secret service agents receive information thanks to full-scale intelligence covering almost the whole territory of Russia. About 10 spies were revealed in several large economic departments of the Russian Federation, along with about 90 experts and advisers whose foreign special service status is beyond doubt. Special services use over a hundred foreign firms and organizations, in the banking sphere as well, as a cover. Today one can make the disturbing conclusion that there exists an organized system for collection and export abroad of information about the most advanced domestic technologies and achievements," FSK representatives underlined.

Population, Life Expectancy Decrease

LD0204155595 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the State Committee for Statistics, the population of Russia decreased by 124,000 people in 1994, totalling 148.2 million. The average life expectancy of Russians was 64 years and that of rural residents 50-54 years.

Inward Migration Now Totals Over 700,000

MM0404160095 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Report from PRAVDA, ITAR-TASS "In Brief" column: "Some 700,000 Forced Resettlers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of forced resettlers who have come into Russia from nearby foreign countries recorded by the Russian Federation Federal Migration Service currently exceeds 700,000. During 1994 alone 254,518 people obtained resettler status. Tajikistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Chechnya were the main suppliers of migrants. Last year a considerable influx of settlers from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan was observed.

Rybkin: Regions Must Learn From Chechnya

LD0504161295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 5 (Interfax)—Chechen developments "are influencing the development of the national consciousness of all peoples in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russian Federation, and the Russian people understand the degree of their responsibility for the outcome of events and further development of the Russian political situation," Russian Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin said in an exclusive Interfax interview.

"We must be very careful. We must treat others correctly and with accentuated respect. This is very important," stressed Rybkin.

At the same time, "in the case of aggressive actions we must put in place those who go to extremes. This is evident. It is not a sign of Russian nationalism or chauvinism but a demand of our times. This must be understood by everyone," said Rybkin.

The Russian Constitution "contains perfect rules for state life. Everyone must abide by them. If you do not obey the law you are dooming yourself to non-freedom. The bitter experience of Chechen developments teaches a lesson to us all. I think that many people, including here in the center, are coming to the correct conclusions. I think that the same conclusions are being made in the republics, territories and regions (of the Russian Federation - Interfax), especially in high places," Rybkin stressed.

Shoygu: 'Entire Situation' in Groznyy Under Control

LD0804134295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 8 (Interfax)—Russia's interior forces "control the entire situation in Groznyy and if there occur terroristic acts these are largely actions of separate fanatics but not planned attempts of Dudayev's fighters to disrupt the city's peaceful life," Russia's Emergency Situations Minister Sergey Shoygu, member of Russia's Security Council, declared in an interview with Interfax Saturday [8 April].

He returned from Groznyy late on Friday night where he attended sitting of the State commission on restoration of Chechnya's economy and social sphere chaired by First Vice Premier Minister Oleg Soskovets.

As Shoygu said, "one can see a lively flow of Groznyy's citizens who left the city during hostilities." Earlier rescuers from the Emergency Situations Ministry moved out several tens citizens from Groznyy and today about 3000-4000 people return to the city every day, Shoygu said. At present the city's population amounts to more than 200,000 people whereas it was only 80,000 a month ago. "One can feel that the city returns to an active life," Shoygu continued.

When asked what Soskovets meant saying that restoration of peace life in Groznyy is going on badly, Shoygu answered that he meant a not very active work of several federal ministries and departments. In addition, the commission's sitting was sharply critical of the local authorities which not very actively attract citizens for the restoration works.

"The stage when Groznyy's citizens lived exclusively at the expense of the humanitarian aid has passed,—Shoygu underlined.—nnnAt the present stage one should buy but not receive. And one should earn money in order to buy something. And one should work in order to earn."

Shoygu said that the Emergency Situations Ministry is primarily busy with removing obstructions of 42 buildings in the center of the city which cannot be restored. As many as 22 houses have been already dismantled.

"I think that in the near time detachments of the Emergency Situations Ministry will leave the city," Shoygu said. For example, six hospitals are already working in the city, "consequently, we can take away our hospital, three bread-baking plants work in the city, and we can redeploy our field hospital," Shoygu said.

"Construction workers are to appear in the city in the near future, they will also dismantle obstructions of the damaged buildings. This testifies to the fact that normal life is being restored in Groznyy," Shoygu concluded.

Media Issues

Soskovets Meets Representatives of TV, Radio Companies

LD0404174395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1639 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—Russian TV and radio are ready for more active coverage of economic and social restorations in Chechnya, heads of the Russian Public Television, the Russian State TV and Radio Company, the Independent TV Company, the 2x2 TV Company, the Moscow TV Channel and the radio stations of Mayak and Yunost told First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets here today. The meeting was attended by Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray.

Soskovets has decided on live TV broadcasts from Groznyy which will be sold to all interested Russian TV companies, including those lacking their correspondents in Chechnya.

Representatives of the Defence Ministry who attended the meeting promised assistance in transportation of correspondents in Chechnya and their activities in the zone.

It is very important to resume functioning of Chechen TV, noted the meeting participants. Transmitters will be soon brought to Groznyy to enable forecasts of the first and second Russian TV channels to a considerable part of republican territory. Residents of Shali and Gudermes will be able to watch regular TV programs within ten-fifteen days.

Special Commission To Make Licensing Decisions for TV, Radio

LD0404213895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 4 (Interfax)—Decisions to license television and radio broadcasting

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

channels will be made by the Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting (FSTR) only on the basis of conclusions of a special licensing commission, instituted within the FSTR late last year, FSTR chief Valentin Lazutkin said at the commission's first session Tuesday.

He said the commission would act until a law on television and radio broadcasting was adopted and all licensing procedures established.

The dean of Moscow University's journalism department Yasen Zasursky has been appointed chairman of the 20-member licensing commission.

The same session considered applications filed by representatives of competing Moscow and St. Petersburg radio companies contesting licenses for two vacant FM frequencies. There are already 17 FM radio stations in Russia.

Duma Commission Preparing Appeal on Public Television

LD1004164495 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1354 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president's edict on the creation of Russian Public Television has violated the Constitution and the civil code and should be revoked, it was stated at a news conference on 11 April. The Duma commission on Russian Public Television is gathering documents to appeal to the Constitutional Court, should the Federation Council fail to approve and should the president veto the law on the procedure for privatization of the state television structures that was adopted recently by the lower chamber of parliament.

Meanwhile, the government has adopted instructions on handing over Ostankino foreign bureaus as payment for shares in Russian Public Television. Sergey Kalashnikov, chairman of the Duma committee for social support, does not agree with this.

[Begin Kalashnikov recording] Russian Public Television should literally be called shady deal number one in the area of privatization. It is indeed a shady deal. Tens of millions of dollars have been given, just like that, to far from the poorest people in this country. [end recording]

According to Kalashnikov, the worst expectations that money would begin to call the tune have come true.

[Begin Kalashnikov recording] The fact that Russian Public Television is already pointing a gun at the State Duma, as was the case in 1993, demonstrates visibly that Russian Public Television is a most powerful instrument of authority today. [end recording]

The deputies intend to demand the creation of a state commission for the privatization of Ostankino. Kalashnikov will take Russian Public Television to court for insulting his dignity as a man and as a deputy; it said he was a well-known Duma troublemaker.

Military, Space & Nuclear Issues

Grachev To Visit Strategic Purpose Missile Troops

LD1104090495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0633 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Apr—Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev left on 11 April on a working trip around the units of the strategic purpose missile forces.

Yelena Agapova, the minister's aide, reported to INTERFAX that P. Grachev intends to check the state of affairs and the combat readiness of the strategic purpose missile forces. The program of the defense minister's trip includes a meeting with the heads of administration of the districts in which the strategic missile forces' formations are stationed.

During the working trip which is expected to last until 14 April, P. Grachev plans to visit Irkutsk, Engels, and Plesetsk. During the minister's stay at the state testing ground in Plesetsk the launching of a combat training intercontinental ballistic missile is planned.

Authorities 'Cringe' Over VE-Day Parade

MM0404135295 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Letter from P. Ablamonov, "A participant in the Great Patriotic War": "Lord Clinton Is Coming..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—The leadership is pleased: His Lordship is coming, that is to say, Clinton. As a "Mayak" observer noted, this fact "will confirm the decisive role played by the Soviet Army in the defeat of the Fascist German invaders." And if he did not come, then would the holiday stop being a holiday?! So Clinton has gotten so carried away that he has even started putting forward conditions: Under no circumstances must there be a military parade of the present Russian Army on Red Square; as for the veterans, well, OK, let them pass along the paving stones outside the Kremlin....

This is after all a downright ultimatum! But how will the veterans receive it?!

I recently went to a concert in the House of Unions Hall of Columns. I walked anxiously up the marble stairs. I had not been there for a long time, and all kinds of capitalist presentations are being held here increasingly frequently now. But on that day our front-line brothers filled the hall. However, it was a little annoying that scarcely anyone arrived wearing orders or medals. Is that what the smooth-talking "democrats" have done to us, that we are embarrassed to arrive wearing our sacred military relics?! What can you do: People who cannot stand the Russian spirit or Russian customs are running the show these days in the newspapers and on television.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

And any old opiate will do. They are even virtually on the point of showing ordinary people saying "We want socialism!" on television.

But as far as the content of the concert in the Hall of Columns was concerned, there was no question of any developments here yet. Famous variety performers and soloists appeared. Excerpts from the classic operas could be heard, as well as the Russian romances "Dark Eyes," "I Met you," and old Russian songs like "Along Piterskaya." But why did the front-line fighters show Olympian calm? Because the concert organizers took no account of the audience's requests. The war veterans were waiting for front-line songs, but these could be counted on the fingers of one hand, so to speak.

So why this "embarrassment" about including front-line songs on the programs of concerts devoted to the anniversary of the Victory? Because it is clear what heartstrings will be touched!

Everything points to the fact that this holiday is sticking in the authorities' throats.

When you drive through the center of the capital, you can see that Manege Square has been dug up on the eve of the sacred holiday. Had they forgotten that the anniversary is coming up? No, of course not; they did it on purpose! The parade of veterans will take place here, so it is being said, whereas the parade of military hardware will take place elsewhere—to suit the Lord Clinton?

Only Red Square has been left whole. In the past the holiday was celebrated all in one place. Now it has been separated into several areas. Is this so that the participants in the war do not gather together?

My memory takes me back to the past again and again. How many memoirs of our famous military leaders used to come out at the time of the Victory anniversaries! Now you cannot find them on the stalls. Only detective stories. On the other hand, the subway passageways and squares are packed with books by the traitor Suvorov-Rezun and other turncoats. You feel amazed at these writings, which try to show that the last war was launched by the Kremlin, that Hitler was not an aggressor at all, and that the Victory of 1945 was not a good thing but a misfortune for the peoples.

The spree on our television screens is particularly painful. You rarely come across a speech by an ordinary fighter. Commentators of Svanidze's type comment on war events on his behalf. It has recently become fashionable to show films about the war accompanied by an "explanation," as if to say that the film is a product of a totalitarian regime, when we lived as if we were in the gulag, whereas now we live in different, unfettered times. It is as if these caricatures of commentators are unaware that the overwhelming majority of people live in poverty, that millions of refugees are wandering around Russia, and that "killed in combat" notices are being distributed around the cities and villages just as in the war years.

Who put our children and grandchildren in the line of fire in Chechnya, choosing the one—"frontal"—option? People are waiting impatiently for the end of the war, when the instigators will be called to account for the casualties. And no matter how much the authorities may put a brave face on a sorry business today, no matter how they may cringe before Lord Clinton, the hour of retribution will come!

Veterans Will Hold 'Alternative' VE-Day March

MM0504155395 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 1

["Own Information" report: "March From the Belarus Station Beneath Red Banners"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A press conference of the left-wing opposition took place yesterday at the PRAVDA editorial office at which an appeal from veterans of the Great Patriotic War was read out. It announced their intention to hold a march as an alternative to the official Victory Day demonstration. It would begin at the Belarus Station. The red flags of Victory would be carried down Tverskaya, along the Kremlin Embankment, up the Vasilyevskiy Spusk, and into Red Square. About 200 Great Patriotic War veterans, cultural figures, and leaders of opposition social and political parties and movements added their signatures to this appeal.

Filatov Outlines Moscow V-Day Celebrations 8-9 May

LD1104161695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—"The Order of Zhukov, a decoration inaugurated to mark the 50th anniversary of victory over fascist Germany, will be presented by the Russian president for the first time to a group of military commanders- veterans of the Great Patriotic War during the May 8 festive meeting in the Kremlin palace," ITAR-TASS was told by Sergey Filatov, head of the presidential administration, who is a member of the organisational committee charged with the preparation of jubilee celebrations. He is responsible for the functions in which the president is to take part.

One more momentous event will be linked with the name of the legendary marshal on May 8—the unveiling of a monument to Zhukov by the Russian president near the building of the Moscow History Museum.

Filatov described the festive "garb" of the Red Square, the Kremlin, the State Kremlin Palace, where the festive meeting will be held. The V-Day report will be delivered by Boris Yeltsin. A guard of honour is expected to stay at attention on the stage.

President Yeltsin will meet heroes of the Soviet Union and bearers of all the three orders of glory on the eve of the jubilee celebrations—April 28.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

On Victory Day, May 9, the Russian president will attend on Red Square a march-past of four thousand war veterans. A military parade will take place on Mt. Poklonnaya at noon. The St. George church will be sanctified there somewhat later, as well as the unveiling of the main monument and the opening of the museum of the Great Patriotic War.

A festive reception will be arranged by the president in the Kremlin for Moscow's guests in the evening of the same day.

According to Filatov, Yeltsin does not plan to hold talks with the leaders of the foreign countries attending the jubilee celebrations in Moscow. President Clinton will be the only exception, because, as distinct from the other leaders, he is to come to Russia on an official visit. Touching on the refusal of the leaders of the Baltic states to accept Yeltsin's invitation to attend the jubilee celebrations in Moscow, Filatov noted: "This is no reason to be upset. This is our holiday, and its greatness is unquestionable. Nothing will be able to darken it."

The celebrations will be rounded off by a victory salute on May 9.

General Lebed Sees Coming of Russian Dictatorship

LD1104165095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 (INTERFAX)—Commander of the 14th Russian Army in Transdniestria, General Aleksander Lebed, described his participation in the Russian Communities Congress (RCC) in Moscow last weekend as "the beginning of a political battle" tied to Russian parliamentary elections, scheduled for this year. He made this statement in an exclusive interview with Interfax on Tuesday.

General Lebed did not give a direct answer to a question about his election program or political leanings. However, he spoke highly about the RCC. He said that "people united by the RCC do care about the country's future."

According to Lebed, "over a decade of Perestroyka, accompanied by gunfire, we achieved nothing, and this is clear to everyone from the most zealous Communists to the no-less-zealous Democrats."

At the same time, General Lebed expressed doubt that parliamentary and presidential elections in Russia will take place. "We are advancing, unfortunately, towards a dictatorship, because many people in power have embezzled up to their neck and feel safe only if they stay in power." That is why, they will do everything to frustrate elections or to launch a sort of the Kazakh-style referendum to extend presidential powers," said the general.

At the 3rd Russian Communities Congress, Aleksandr Lebed became a member of the ruling body alongside Glasyev, Zatulin, Govorukhin. Yuriy Skokov was elected chairman of the RCC National Council.

Lebed on Military, Regional Concerns

95UM0376A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 14, Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Aleksandr Lebed by I. Morzharetto, 1st class petty officer (reserve), and V. Perushkin, private (reserve); date not given: "I Serve As I See Fit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **As of today there is no more popular individual in the Russian Army than Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 15th Army. It is not his superiors, but mainly ordinary Russians who pay heed to his opinion. Ultimately our paper writes for precisely these, and for this reason our correspondents met at 14th Army Headquarters in Tiraspol with its commander.**

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] Aleksandr Ivanovich, how do you assess your popularity rating among not just Russian military personnel but also among ordinary citizens?

[Lebed] I would like to spit on all popularity ratings. This has never excited me and does not now. I live and serve as I see fit.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] And how have your relations with the president and the defense minister changed?

[Lebed] The relations have remained steadily nonexistent. I have become some kind of holy fool: I can do what is forbidden everyone else.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] Does this hurt you?

[Lebed] I am hurt more today by the events in Chechnya. And my forecasts of future developments are very dismal, despite the fact that I am an optimist by nature. Today it is being said that a blitzkrieg had not been planned, but this is utter rubbish. Who believes this crap of many months, in which the Russian Army is getting increasingly bogged down, was planned?

One hundred days of war passed long ago and there is no end in sight. The center of the use of force has shifted to the eastern areas of Chechnya, to the so-called "Golden Triangle": Gudermes-Argun-Shali. These cities, where Chechen-Akintsy, Avartsy, and Dagestani live, are being bombed. And the more bombs and shells that fall, the greater the likelihood that Dagestan will be pulled into the conflict. This situation confronts people with a choice: Although many have no love for Dudayev, there is no longer anyone to lean on. It remains to take up an assault rifle and go off and fight those who are killing the peaceful population. So Dudayev has today become a symbol of national resistance.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] In your opinion, could others also be pulled into the war?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Lebed] The Ingush Republic is maintaining neutrality only thanks to the authority of its president, although the Russian Army shelled and bombed there also when it passed through the republic. This did not add to its authority or increase affection, it only embittered the people. In addition, there is an increased likelihood of a resumption of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. The situation in Kabardino-Balkaria is uneasy also. A year ago many of its citizens were fighting on the side of Abkhazia against Georgia and returned home national heroes. For the same reasons many of them are today fighting on the side of Chechnya, but here they immediately became state criminals. It is perfectly understandable that they would fight against those who have made them such.

What is more, this region is becoming a focal point of diseases about which we had all long since forgotten. And this will undoubtedly affect not only the local population but also the army, refugees, and, ultimately, all Russians. And in the course of operations no guerrilla warfare methods can be ruled out—up to and including nuclear terrorism.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] What, in your opinion, has been the main mistake in a solution of the Chechen question?

[Lebed] Everything. This war should not have been fought. But it was started, and it was started in winter. Only an idiot could have made such a decision. Specially since there are examples: the Finnish war, the Afghan campaign. The appropriate conclusions could have been drawn. They were not. Once again forks in the road, and stepping on them is a sacred cause. Then this constant substitution of army units.... We already have something akin to Afghanistan, with barely experienced people being replaced by those who have seen war only on television. It gives the impression that this state of affairs is to some people's advantage. There is no doubt that in this situation everything can be attributed to the war: deaths and stolen property.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] As a result of all this, what do we have today?

[Lebed] The Russian Army is losing its prestige day by day. You can imagine what it costs today to organize a regular draft. There will soon be no one left to draft into the army, and there is no money for hired personnel. The question arises: Who will serve? Only those who have been released into the reserve, the so-called "partisans," are left. But they would demand a contract, and the state has no money today. An impasse. They will have to be "raked in" without a contract, short-term. Can you imagine the combat capability of such an army?

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] Incidentally, concerning combat capability, Aleksandr Ivanovich, when did your army last conduct field exercises?

[Lebed] Money is being allocated this year only for the pay and keep of the troops (meals, kit, and so forth).

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] What do you think—under these circumstances is the present defense minister a victim of political games or the main instigator of the war?

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] Grachev is most likely a victim. There is not a single known instance in history of a general ever getting up on the wrong side of the bed one morning and starting a war. The reasons for the start of a war always emanate from a country's political leadership.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] What do you think, the Dniester region, where your army is stationed, is it not a distorted reflection of Russia?

[Lebed] It is the same as Russia, the sole difference being that the territory of Russia is bigger, causing all the skewed processes of the present system to be spread out, while here everything is concentrated, and that is why they are striking. There is the total degradation of the leadership of the republic. In three years they have eaten and drunk their way through all that they could. And if the Dniester people like such a president, this is their business.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] Why was Gromov "eaten up" and you have not been?

[Lebed] Everyone is given teeth not just to chomp with. They sometimes need to be shown also. Strength makes the world go round....

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] So Gromov is weaker than you?

[Lebed] As regards Gromov, I may say that it is not evening yet and it is too early to make assessments. The usual nomenklatura games are being played. It is only that everything has been done loutishly and crudely.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] The Dniester authorities have decided to "hit" you. Shevtsov, minister of state security, for example, accused you and the military field bank of the 14th Army publicly on television of the fact that, as a result of nefarious money transactions, the Dniester Moldavian Republic is being robbed....

[Lebed] It is impossible to accuse the military field bank since it works with Russian rubles, not the local "candy wrappers," and only in the interests of the Russian Army. Furthermore, it does not in any way intersect with the Dniester region in its activities. The whole furor surrounding the military field bank is, therefore, much ado about nothing.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] It is said that Shevtsov dared to attack you only because he had enlisted support in the FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service]. Is this really the case?

[Lebed] A sacred business.... I would like to put it somewhat more strongly, but... so be it, I will not use bad language. He unquestionably has support from the FSK.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] You are at the present time an "irritant," so to speak. Does it not occur to you that you could simply be physically removed? This is very fashionable today.

[Lebed] I am a fatalist and believe that a person born to be hanged will never drown.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] Nonetheless, it would be safer, probably, to secure yourself, surround yourself with a guard, for God takes care of those who take care of themselves, for all that....

[Lebed] This is what the nun said, putting on... you know what and for what. If there are some people who do not like me, then, certainly, let them come and take me. If they know how....

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] You drive to your dacha in your own Taurus without security....

[Lebed] I have neither a dacha nor my own Taurus.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] Aleksandr Ivanovich, let's assume there has been a change of leadership in Russia, and you have suddenly been offered the post of defense minister. Would you consent?

[Lebed] I never consider all these "if's and and's".... If grandma had a beard, she would be grandpa.... So in connection with the office of defense minister—when such a situation arises, then we will think about it.

'Russian Military Brotherhood' Formed

MM0504084095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

["Own Information" report: "If They Are Fraternizing, It Is for Lofty Purposes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Ministry of Justice has registered the "Russian Military Brotherhood" public association (the president is Professor Reserve Colonel General Vitaliy Kremlev).

It has been joined by over 30 veterans' and public movements. The "brotherhood's" main aims have been declared to be the consolidation of statehood, assistance for the reform which is being carried out in the army, the consolidation of the Armed Forces' moral and patriotic spirit, and the defense of the rights and interests of servicemen and veterans.

Air Force Commander: No New Combat Aircraft Expected

LD0104135495 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1300 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Air Force will not get any new combat aircraft this year, Mikhail Soroka, deputy commander in chief of the Air Force, told the State Duma. According to him, the Air Force requires 300 to 400 new warplanes a year. He also said that over 60 percent of the airfields belonging to the Defense Ministry need major repairs and reconstruction.

Video Report on Satellite Launch Using Modified Ex-SS-25

MM0404104095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Mar 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Plesetsk by V. Loyter, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Loyter to camera against backdrop of launch site, launcher in hangar] Launchers of this type for small-size communications, navigational, and radio-technical satellites have a great future. They use solid fuel, which is more economical and causes less damage to the environment.

Three satellites are being launched today. One is carrying radio-ham frequency equipment developed at the Israeli Space Technology Institute, the second is a Russian-Mexican satellite for studying the threat posed by meteorites, and the third is an experimental "Ekho-2" space apparatus. Today's launch is the continuation of the work on the development of the Start launchers. Today's launcher differs from the previously used four-stage Start-1 in that another stage has been added. The new program is very promising. The Topol [SS-25] has unique potential for peaceful space exploration. The Start launch complex is also highly practical, making launches from essentially anywhere in the world possible. [Video shows launch site, launcher in hangar, middle-distance shot of launch site, officer turning key, liftoff]

Plans 'Completed' for Defense Reforms, Civilian Ministry

MM1104110795 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

["Own Information" report: "Defense Minister Will Remove Shoulderboards"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A member of the Russian president's national security adviser's staff has reported in a confidential conversation that the work on the range of measures involved in drawing up the overview of military reform may be considered as completed in principle. It will most likely start to be implemented in the early summer. The process is pretty complex and painful and for that reason is spread over eight to 10 years; its basic principles have already been agreed with Boris Yeltsin. Of the most important changes, the following were highlighted.

The creation of a civilian Defense Ministry (around 70 percent of the apparatus being civilian officials), whose range of duties will be pretty extensive, ranging from the formulation of military and military-technical policy to the provision of financial and logistical support for the Armed Forces, the social adaptation of servicemen, and so forth. It is intended that the new Defense Ministry

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

will be headed by Pavel Grachev's current first deputy, Andrey Kokoshin, whose nomination raises no objections from the president or the premier.

All questions directly connected with the command and control of troops are transferred to the General Staff. The chief of the General Staff will be directly subordinate to the supreme commander in chief, that is to say, the president of the Russian Federation. A considerable cutback in the apparatus of the General Staff (according to preliminary figures, around 700 staff are to leave) and all the other tiers of command and control of the Armed Forces is expected. The nomination of the chief of the new General Staff has not been conclusively decided, but it can be assumed with a high degree of probability that it will be Andrey Nikolayev.

The gradual reduction in the strength of the Russian Armed Forces—initially down to 1.5 million, and then to 1.2 million—is planned during the reform. The number of military districts is also being reduced to six to eight and the fleets to two (the Northern and Pacific Fleets).

It is also intended to eliminate the high commands of the branches of the Armed Services—they will be replaced by considerably more compact main directorates subordinate to the head of the General Staff. The structure of the Armed Forces will be somewhat different: battalion—brigade—corps—district. The directive signed by Boris Yeltsin the other day on increasing the number of military schools, which are now seen as the source for supplying the army with contract personnel, is an element in the gradual switch to a more professional army.

Given NATO's advance toward Russia's borders, it is intended to step up military and military technical cooperation with CIS states, which will include the assigning there of a certain number of servicemen who are Russian Federation citizens. The CIS military alliance must, in the opinion of the ideologues of reform, become a kind of counterweight to the new NATO.

Based on the experience of the conflict in Chechnya, it is also planned to strengthen considerably the internal troops, creating special subunits among them trained for operations in Chechnya-like situations.

Given that Russia does not currently have the means to maintain a large army or the ability to supply the "necessary" draft of troops, this arrangement does, in the opinion of a number of military experts, meet the realities of the day to a sufficient degree.

It is obvious that, although the military reform overview has been approved "at the highest level," certain features of it could be modified dependent upon changes in the situation, first and foremost the domestic policy situation. A number of high-ranking military are not unduly interested in speeding up the pace of reform. The arguments of the opponents are diverse: shortage of resources, the inadvisability of radical changes in the forces in the runup to the elections, and the danger of generating discontent with the country's leadership among military structures. However, by all accounts, such arguments are unlikely to be crucial on this occasion.

No 'Major' Breakdowns at Nuclear Power Plants

LD0304190395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—Russian nuclear facilities suffered no major breakdowns in March 1995 that could decrease their safety, according to the state committee of the Russian Federation for supervision over the safety of work in nuclear power engineering, or Goskomatomnadzor.

However, Goskomatomnadzor told ITAR-TASS on Monday that there were three incidents when the capacity of several reactors was reduced, and in as many cases reactors were deactivated by emergency shut-down systems during repairs, two of them at the Kola nuclear power plant and one at the Kursk nuclear power station.

There were five emergency shut-downs of the research reactors at the Kursk, Kalinin and Kola nuclear power plants, and at the Dubna and Obninsk nuclear research centers due to malfunction of equipment, human error and sharp voltage changes in the power grid.

In addition, Goskomatomnadzor banned the operation of a pilot channel of a research reactor, VR-10, at the Obninsk research center pending the completion of formalities following the reactor's modernisation.

Nuclear Center in Chelyabinsk Develops Conversion Program

LD0404080895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0732 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Tkachenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Snezhinsk, Chelyabinsk Region April 4 TASS—The Russian federal nuclear research centre (RFNRC) in Snezhinsk, commonly known as Chelyabinsk-70, has developed a programme of conversion to civilian production which comprises 92 projects to be completed before the year 2000. Although its main objective is the development of the country's nuclear shield, the centre now gives priority attention also to conversion ahead of the RFNRC's 40th anniversary.

"The centre was created and developed in conditions of top secrecy," RFNRC General Director Vladimir Nechai told ITAR-TASS today.

"The first to arrive in the Urals were physicists, mathematicians and a small group of industrial manufacturers. Their main objective was to develop and upgrade nuclear weapons. The first 'product' was tested in April 1957. Our experience led to the creation of the world's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

most powerful nuclear bomb, which was fortunately never used, and is now on display in our museum", Nechai said.

Along with a number of nuclear bombs with high charges, the RFNRC developed a series of smaller but highly effective and reliable prototypes. Most of the nuclear arms now in service with the armed forces of the Russian Federation were connected with the developments and discoveries made by the centre's specialists.

Under the conversion programme, the centre has developed components of fiber-optical equipment amd communications systems on its basis, as well as modern medical equipment and devices for use in ensuring safety in the nuclear power engineering sector and environmental monitoring.

In the early 90's, the centre opened its doors to visitors for the first time. Tens of foreign scientists have visited it since that time, and a number of international symposia have been held.

The centre has signed a number of direct contracts with the leading weapons laboratories of the United States and is now working on a score of projects worth several million dollars provided by the international scientific and technical centre.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Urged To Revise Privatization Plan

LD0704121595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1037 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Leaders of six factions in the Russian State Duma made a call to President Boris Yeltsin to revise the strategy of the second, monetary, stage of privatisation. They believe it must be better balanced. The open letter sent to the president on Friday also says that the Russian Parliament is ready to consider again the draft federal law "on the state programme for privatisation on state-owned and municipal enterprises in Russia after July 1, 1994". The letter was signed by chiefs of factions of the Agrarian and Democratic parties, "Women of Russia" movement, the Communist Party and the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], and deputies group "New Regional Policy".

The March 30 meeting of the Russian Government devoted to the implementation of the second stage of privatisation in 1995 served as a pretext for addressing the president. The letter says that draft documents discussed by the government envisaged that "a large number of state-owned packages of shares of privatised enterprises, including structure-forming enterprices of key industries is to be sold ahead of schedule" before the end of 1995.

The authors of the message doubt the possibility of getting the expected incomes for the federal budget from the sale of state property in the amount of 9,500 billion roubles and believe that the above-mentioned documents "are not oriented at creating conditions for the flow of investment to privatised enterprises". "State property will be sold at prices much lower than those which will be established if the strategy of measured sale of shares, oriented at long-term investors and favourable conditions of sales were adopted", the letter says.

The leaders of six factions in the Duma urged the president "to analyse in detail the possible consequences of the sale of state- owned packages of shares of enterprices in the key industries, such as the oil-and-gas and military-industrial complexes, power generation, nonferrous and ferrous metallurgy. It is essential to prevent damaging Russia's strategic interest and national security". It is also suggested "to determined legislatively in which industries, in what amount and on what terms state property should be preserved".

The authors of the letter ask the Russian president to consider jointly with the government and with the Federal Assembly the strategy of the second stage of privatisation.

Duma Backs Zhirinovskiy Call for Corruption Investigation

LD0704135195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 7 (INTERFAX)—The State Duma backed on Friday the proposal by the leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who demanded that "a commission should be created to investigates facts of corruption in the Russian Parliament".

Zhirinovskiy also advanced this proposal earlier but it was voted down.

The LDPR leader reasoned his initiative by the fact that the recently created deputy group "Stability", he believes, is involved in corruption. Earlier he said that each deputy who went over from other factions to this group had been promised $5,000 and $1,000 each month, as well as trips abroad, apartments and other benefits.

A total of three people, including chairman of the geopolitics committee Viktor Ustinov, left the LDPR faction for the deputy group "Stability".

State Duma To Discuss Moratorium on Black Sea Fleet

LD0704161595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 7 (Interfax)—The State Duma has decided to debate shortly the imposition of a moratorium on unilateral reduction of the Russian part of the Black Sea Fleet.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

CIS Committee Chairman Konstantin Zatulin who made this motion reported to the Duma on the results of a trip a delegation headed by him made to Sevastopol at the invitation of Admiral Eduard Baltin, Black Sea Fleet commander, at the end of March.

He said that Ukraine feeds on the Russian-financed Black Sea Fleet as well as on Russian oil flowing across it. Zatulin explained that the Ukrainian authorities have imposed 15 different taxes on the fleet and 38 percent of the collected amount is channeled directly to the Kiev treasury.

An official account of the trip written by Zatulin and other delegation members says that they were under continuous surveillance by Ukrainian secret services and that the Ukrainian authorities were unfriendly, if not hostile, towards the delegation on numerous occasions.

The delegation called on the State Duma to view the signing of a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between Russian and Ukraine as premature until the status of Sevastopol as the main base of the Black Sea Fleet is agreed on.

Duma Ratifies Consular Convention With Ukraine

LD0704192095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 7 (Interfax - Ukraine)—The Russian State Duma ratified the Ukrainian-Russian consular convention today, Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Leonid Smolyakov told Interfax-Ukraine in an interview.

He said that during the ratification procedure Russian parliamentarians had expressed their concern about the situation around the Russian consular group which had worked in Crimea.

The Russian consular group worked in the Crimean parliament's building on March 20-30 granting Russian citizenship to Crimean residents willing to acquire it. The group stopped its activities on March 30 on the demand of Ukraine.

Smolyakov said the Russian Embassy hoped that Russia would open permanent missions in Crimea and Kharkov. He said Russia had sent the corresponding proposal to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry several months ago.

"I think we are all interested in eliminating tension and conducting constructive talks," Smolyakov added.

Duma To Debate 'Illegitimacy' of Sevastopol Transfer

LD0704193595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 7 (Interfax)—The Russian State Duma, the lower chamber in parliament, decided Friday to debate the illegitimacy of transferring Sevastopol to Ukraine. This proposal was moved by Aleksey Zvyagin, Liberal Democrat.

His other motions were rejected. In particular, he wanted the Duma to debate the imposition of economic sanctions against Ukraine but as few as 186 deputies supported this motion, while 226 are needed to have a resolution passed, with 21 against and four abstentions.

Zvyagin's motion to debate confidence in Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets because of his soft position on Ukraine was also rejected in a 212-6 vote with two abstentions.

He also suggested that the Duma ask President Boris Yeltsin to call off his visit to Ukraine. Because as few as 165 voted for this with 11 against and two abstentions, this motion also failed.

Duma Halts Transfer of Land to Foreign States Without Vote

LD0704193995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 7 (Interfax)—The State Duma (lower house of parliament) decided Friday to pass a bill that would ban the transfer of Russian land to foreign states without an appropriate referendum.

Such legislation was proposed by deputy Sergey Baburin, who explained his initiative by "the complex situation on the Russian-Chinese border," and by, as he put it, Russia's intention to transfer part of its territory to China.

Duma Adopts Laws Rejected by Federation Council

LD0704192195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1655 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Russian State Duma again adopted the laws "On Changes and Amendments to the Russian Law 'On Added Value Tax'" and "On Changes and Amendments to the Russian Law 'On Tax on Revenues of Enterprises and Organizations'" today.

The laws had been rejected by the upper parliament chamber of the Federation Council and adopted again in the form coordinated with the upper chamber.

The only provision on which the chambers failed to agree is the amount of the tax on revenues of enterprises

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and organizations. In the opinion of the upper chamber, the rate must be equal to 25 per cent, while the Duma thinks it must not exceed 22 per cent.

Over two thirds of Duma deputies voted for the 22 per cent tax. Thus, the upper chamber will have to agree with this decision.

State Duma Rejects Medical Examination Commission Bill

LD0704191995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1801 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 7 (Interfax)—The State Duma rejected the Medical Examination Commission Bill Friday and sent it back to its authors.

The bill was introduced to the Duma in a first reading by Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyukhin, Communist.

It was supported by 118 votes, while 226 are needed to pass it, with 68 against and four abstentions.

The bill called for the setting up of a state medical examination commission of 15 appointed members.

The commission would find whether top officials showed steady inability to discharge their duties for medical reasons. The president, prime minister and government ministers, chairmen of the Federal Assembly houses, the prosecutor general and the Central Bank of Russia chairman were to be examined by the commission.

The ruling body of the Russian Society of Psychiatrists said that, if passed, the bill would result in unprecedented abuse of medicine for political and other non-medical purposes and to attempts to have physicians remove top officials from their positions.

Duma To Discuss 14th Army Presence in Dniester

LD0704124795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The State Duma will discuss the item "on impermissibility of the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from the Dniester area". The Duma voted for precisely this wording on Friday on the proposal of Vitaliy Zhuravlev, deputy of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction. He asked that this item be put on the agenda of the session. As many as 228 deputies voted for his proposal, two deputies were against and there were seven abstentions.

The Duma committee on defence was instructed to prepare the item for debating at a plenary meeting of the house but no timeframe was specified.

Kolesnikov To Represent Government in Service Law Debate

MM0704134995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report from the "In the Corridors of Power" column under the rubric "Cadres": "The Military Also Has Its Hand in Parliament"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By directive of the government, Colonel General Mikhail Petrovich Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff and Russian first deputy defense minister, is appointed the government's official representative during the examination by the Federal Assembly chambers of the draft federal law "On Amending and Supplementing Articles 17, 21, 37, and 50 of the Russian Federation Law 'On Military Duty and Military Service.'"

Duma Passes Law on Support for News Media, Book Publication

LD0704194795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 7 (Interfax)—The law on state support for the news media and book publication in the Russian Federation was passed on Friday (227 votes).

The law was drafted by the Duma Committee for Information Policies and Communications, headed by Mikhail Poltoranin (Russia's Choice faction). It earlier passed three readings in the lower house. However, the law was not approved by the Federation Council because its deputies disagree with some of its provisions.

Having withdrawn these provisions, Poltoranin again submitted the bill to the Duma. Deputies of the lower house approved it, but rejected two other bills of the same package related to the currency regulation.

Regional Affairs

Schedule for Yeltsin's Visit to Kabardino-Balkaria

LD1004220095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2054 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NALCHIK, April 10 (Interfax)—Officials from the Press and Information Ministry of Kabardino-Balkaria announced the schedule for President Yeltsin's visit to that Russian Federation member republic.

President Yeltsin's plane is expected to land in Nalchik airport on Tuesday morning.

President Yeltsin will visit an economic exhibition and meet with the managers of leading industries, local administration chiefs and members of parliament.

From the exhibition President Yeltsin will go to a horse race. Then he will head for the center of Nalchik to the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

monument commemorating the 400th anniversary of Kabarda's unification with Russia and lay flowers.

In front of the government building President Yeltsin will have a brief meeting with city residents.

President Yeltsin's official visit to Nalchik also includes a visit to the children's center. President Yeltsin will be briefed on the program "Children of Kabardino-Balkaria" for which he earmarked 5 billion rubles.

The official program of the first day of President Yeltsin's visit to Kabardino-Balkaria will end by 15:00.

On Wednesday President Yeltsin is going to visit the foothills of Mont Elbrus, the biggest mountaineering center in Russia.

An aerial tramway will take him to a high-altitude mountaineering camp. President Yeltsin's visit may be prolonged, depending on the weather in the area, reliable sources have said.

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Red Cross Barred From Entering Samashki

LD1004172895 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Representatives of the federal command in Chechnya announced today that the troops had taken the strategically important Moscow-Baku highway. It was also announced today that the opposition of the Dudayev detachments in the area of the village of Samashki had been broken. It has not been possible to obtain independent confirmation of the reports from Samashki as the federal troops have not allowed journalists into the village. [Video shows Russian troops, military hardware, helicopters and destroyed buildings in the countryside]

[Correspondent Sergey Dedukh] Over the past 24 hours Russian troops have continued to attack Chechen villages whose residents together with Dudayev's guards do not want to surrender their arms. The population of Samashki, on the approach to which federal units made their base at the very beginning of the Chechen campaign, has been bombed from the air and under gunfire for more than a month already. A former Soviet air force lieutenant colonel nicknamed Ali the Red Beard led the defense forces. [Video shows a man with a red beard in combat fatigues]

On Saturday [8 April] the Russian command said that Samashki had been completely cleared of Chechen militia. However, a day later one of the Russian officers at a checkpoint near Samashki reported that battles were continuing in the surrounding woods. Russian soldiers are not allowing an International Red Cross vehicle carrying medicines to enter the village. The soldiers have received an order not to let anyone into an area where exchanges of fire are taking place. [Video shows a Red Cross vehicle stopped by soldiers and wailing women refugees on a country road] [passage omitted]

Reports are emerging about disagreements among Dudayev's fighters. They have apparently been brought about by recent defeats at the front. The commanders of several detachments want to cut short the struggle which they think is senseless. The militia already do not have the strength to stop the progress of the Russian troops but it is clear that it will be much harder to stifle opposition in the mountains.

Ingush Medics Denied Access to Samashki

LD1004193495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1831 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ordzhonikidzevskaya, Ingushetia's Sunzhen District April 10 TASS—Russian federal troops did not let Ingush medics to Chechen village Samashki after battling had ceased there on Sunday. A column of trucks carrying volunteers and medications had been sent to the area by the Ingush Ministry for Emergencies.

Medics who volunteered to provide aid to the village population were stopped at a check-point of federal troops near settlement Sernovodsk, Ingushetia's Deputy Minister for Emergencies Magomed Daurbekov told TASS. He also said Sernovodsk citizens were reporting blazes in Samashki for the last three days.

A spokesman at the federal troops command in Chechnya said Russian soldiers successfully completed a combat operation in the Samashki area past weekend. Over 130 Dudayev's supporters were killed, and 124 were taken prisoner.

MVD Troops Clear Dudayev's Western Strongholds

LD1004213395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2053 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] April 10, (Interfax)—Russian Interior Ministry [MVD] troops, supported by army units, have cleared Zakan-Yurt and Achkhoi—Martan of Dzhokhar Dudayev's militants, the press service of the federal troop command in Chechnya informed.

Achkhoi-Martan and Zakan-Yurt were considered Dudayev's strongholds in western Chechnya. Federal troops stormed the village of Samashki over the weekend.

Federal Troops Take Achkoy-Martan, Zakan-Yurt

LD1104144995 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the press service of the Russian Government, the military-political situation

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

on the territory of Chechnya remains unchanged. In the past 24 hours federal forces have liberated the population centers of Zakan-Yurt and Achkoy-Martan of fighters. The inhabitants of these and other villages are voluntarily surrendering their arms.

Human Rights Campaigner Interviews Dudayev

MM1104114695 Moscow TRUD in Russian 11 Apr 95 pp 1-2

[Partial transcript of St. Petersburg-datelined interview with Dzhokhar Dudayev by St. Petersburg rights campaigner Antuan Arakelyan prepared for publication by Boris Rovda; place and date not given: "TRUD Exclusive: Chechen Dancing the 'Dikr.' I Need This War, the 'Elusive' Dzhokhar Dudayev Said During a Conversation With St. Petersburg Rights Campaigner"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] St. Petersburg—It is now a month since two staffers from St. Petersburg's NEVSKOYE VREMYA newspaper went missing in Chechnya. Two search groups have set out on the trail of their missing colleagues. The well-known St. Petersburg rights campaigner Antuan Arakelyan accompanied one of them to Chechnya. He looked for the guys on "the other" side and got to see Dzhokhar Dudayev himself, whom Russia's special services and military have been trying unsuccessfully to track down. Dudayev had previously promised to do everything he could to find the missing journalists.

Antuan also had another objective in seeking this meeting, namely to find out Dzhokhar Dudayev's reaction to the initiative put forward by [St. Petersburg] City Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak and Yuriy Kravtsov, chairman of the [St. Petersburg] City Legislative Assembly, to hold peace talks in St. Petersburg between all parties involved in the conflict.

Arakelyan spent two and a half hours talking to Dudayev. He gave the dictaphone recording of the conversation to TRUD's St. Petersburg office taking into account, as he said, our newspaper's tremendous influence and well-considered stance on the "Chechen question." We offer readers excerpts of Antuan's conversation and his impressions of his trip to Chechnya.

[Dudayev] St. Petersburg was, is, and remains one of the places in the world where peace negotiating processes not only could but also should take place. There are many reasons for and many factors prompting this. Early in 1992 Anatoliy Sobchak displayed interest in this matter and offered to mediate in settling the conflict. But, regrettably, this remained just words. Many leaders of states and sociopolitical movements worldwide also made statements on this score but for some reason the statements were all that came of it and that will continue to remain the case.

Indeed Sobchak himself, who has been renowned from the outset of perestroyka as a democrat, a lawyer, and jurist, has shown himself to be lacking in caution in the situation of the aggression against the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria by stating that he is prepared to replace young soldiers with hired killers and pay them. And, to my great regret, there are already large numbers of mature servicemen from St. Petersburg here acting with unheard-of savagery.

But we are prepared to take part in talks in St. Petersburg provided there is the appropriate preparation and guarantees although I have strong doubts as to the likelihood of their going ahead.

[Arakelyan] I—a visitor from St. Petersburg—was shown respect throughout my meeting with Dudayev. When I was brought into the room in which the conversation took place, I was not even searched. But the vice premier of the government of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, who sat opposite the sofa where we were, spent the first hour with his finger on the trigger of the pistol on the desk in front of him.

The meeting took place toward evening 28 March in an apartment block near Shali when the federal mass media had already announced that this city had been captured. For some reason the cocks were crowing outside.

Dudayev was dressed as always in camouflage gear with a white shirt and tie, and a forage cap on his head. He behaved in a confident, relaxed manner and spoke easily with no trace of an accent.

Before a difficult ordeal, particularly before the commencement of combat operations Chechens dance a ritual dance, the "dikr," working themselves up into a state of ecstasy following which they frequently have no fear of death. The "dikr" symbolizes readiness to die for one's people. I thought that Dudayev himself seemed to have mentally danced the "dikr" in order to say everything that he thinks with no heed for the consequences. "Nothing will happen over and above what the Almighty ordains," he frequently reiterated.

[Dudayev] If the Russians only knew how far behind mankind's intellectual, spiritual, and moral development they are! If they only knew what ordeals they would have to endure in order to attain the level of the world community, they would simply quake with dread. The events in Chechnya constitute in effect the blitzkrieg of satanism.

The whole Russian people are sick—suffering from Russian chauvinism [Rusism]. Nowhere in the world is there a single inhumane ideology, even in theory, that is more brutal and cynical than Russian chauvinism. And 99.9 percent of Russia's population are suffering from it. ("But in Russia ethnic Russians only make up 82 percent of the population—Antuan is heard saying). Look who is now fighting in the Russian Army: Bashkir, Chuvash, Tuvinians, who else, Yakut, Buryat.... No matter who they are, they live in a complete moral and ethical vacuum. They have no moral principles, they are all like animals.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Arakelyan] Let us leave aside Dudayev's plethora of expressions—the reader will understand.... The president of Chechnya repeatedly said that all branches of power in Russia, the president and the parliament included, are not legitimate. In this I thought he was somewhat like the Russian officials who make the same claims about Dudayev himself and the Chechen republic. He uses similar arguments and methods too. Dudayev has his own court, his own "war criminals." Official Russia have their own and they see Dudayev as the number one, most important criminal. I thought, were all politicians to forget such tenuous arguments as mutual accusations of illegitimacy and try to reach agreement, how many lives would be saved on both sides, how many of the people's assets would have been preserved. But everyone is concerned on their own account!

[Dudayev] What your politicians say does not always square with their actions, they often do the opposite. We are keeping an attentive eye on all regions, on all leaders, on their actions. We have a whole group of lawyers at work investigating serious crimes against humanity and against the individual. A huge amount of material has already been accumulated, which we will submit to the world community any time now—this will be a continuation of the Nuremberg Trials!

The two first hearings in respect of the main war criminals have already been held and I think that specific sentences will be passed at the next hearing. These crimes are too severe to confine oneself to just endless talk, haggling, and political speculation. People are being killed just like that! Just like that! And in this situation we have no time to play at politics. We will not put our trust in the International Court in the Hague or in the United Nations. The Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, the people's court, including the court of the shariat, will pass judgment on the main people responsible for the killing.

[Arakelyan] "Justice is not done by unjust means!" I remarked. In response to my appeal to him to act in accordance with international norms and regulations and involve international institutions, lawyers, rights campaigners, and experts in the enquiry, Dudayev said that their involvement "is not at all necessary." Nor is the observance of the norms of procedure in respect of the defendants—he said that their crimes are obvious and demonstrable: The sentence will be passed and as for its implementation....

[Dudayev] At one time Israel passed sentence in the same way in respect of crimes against the Jewish people. The court of Israel passed sentence and they were carried out and are still being carried out to this day. Criminals were tracked down anywhere in the world and called to account. The irreversibility of punishment for crimes is the prime factor which deters and stops further crimes. So this trial will take place, sentences will be passed, and I think that sons of Chechnya will be found to carry them out. No matter what happens next, there will be no statute of limitation on these sentences.

[Arakelyan] I visited the "Islamic battalion's" base. The "sons of Allah" are here, mainly young Chechens who have already gone through all phases of inward preparation before their possible encounter with the Almighty. The "holy war" dooms them to death. There is no other option for them. But it is I who am using the word "dooms." For them dying in battle is valor: They believe that straight after death their souls go to heaven. They wear green armbands and headbands on their shaven heads. There seems to be no one above them now, even Dudayev. Only the Almighty is above them....

I did not only meet "fighters for Islam" in Chechnya. Dudayev does indeed have plenty of supporters but plenty of enemies too. In short, the nation is not united in its decision, it has ended up in a situation where it does not know what lies in store for it. For many people in Chechnya itself the situation seems hopeless. And plenty of Chechens are living outside Chechnya. The war has brought change to their lives too. It has brought many people bearing weapons to their native land, but many people have become rooted in their prewar life revolving around family and work: The war has been a watershed in their lives. Here are a few questions that I asked during my conversation with the "Chechen No. 1."

[Dudayev] I have no intention of violating or destroying the principles that every person holds sacred. Marriage, family—they are the individual business of every citizen, every Chechen, no matter where he lives. Everyone must make their choice. But we are being proposed the following scenario—a wild animal, a savage bear, say, has been hunted in the forest, he is placed in a cage, and the Chechen is told: "Get in this cage and reach an agreement in principle with him on joint existence." With a wild, unbridled, fierce beast? That is how we see the situation.

Antuan, you are largely mistaken when you talk about some kind of opposition, about conducting a referendum to find out what the people want.... You are presenting pipedreams as reality. You are refusing to see the reality that the entire population, all citizens, the entire Chechen people are united in their view. And they are upholding this right of theirs at the cost of their own lives, at the cost of sacrifices, and will continue to uphold it down to the last Chechen. In Chechnya itself 300,000 armed men between the ages of 17 and 50 have been left homeless, without means of existence, without work, and many even without a family. Yet you want to present everything in your own image talking about some kind of opposition forces, some kind of elections, reelections....

But, suppose the war ended and everyone dispersed: Hurrah for peace! Russia is a democrat, it observes international principles, moral principles. So, Chechens, make up your minds. What would I do with this mass of people in a country where schools and higher educational establishments have been destroyed along with kindergartens, pioneer and medical camps, all the medical potential has been destroyed, as well as the entire

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

agrarian complex. all machine building, and oil extraction and refineries, in a country where everything has been turned into ruins and all that is left is metal, shell fragments, and bomb craters?

What will I do with this mass? What will I do with the 300,000 unfortunate, enraged men armed to the teeth, who have not just sworn vengeance but have already mentally taken revenge, the irreversible retribution now in the blood of every Chechen? What will I do in this "pocket-sized piece of land" with 150-170 people per square kilometer, never mind cultivated areas? If even the mountains are being razed to the ground, even the problems that people want to resolve by strong-arm means with the Chechens are insoluble.

I have said, I do say, and I hereby reaffirm that this war will be with us for a long time to come. A very long time! That is what people there now think: aircraft, missiles.... The Chechens, even two-year old children are no longer afraid of anything: "Allah Akbar [Allah is great]!"—and they go off to prepare for the mortal fight for the right to live on their own territory....

To my misfortune the situation is manageable but I would like it to be totally unmanageable; that is the kind of "component" that I would like to give to the Russian Federation—with this brutal mass of people. My ultimate mission is to make them citizens of this Russia.... If you want to know—I give you my word—I do not need an end to this war, I need this war, I need it to continue.

This war will move to Russian territory whether Russia likes it or not. It will move to St. Petersburg and to Moscow, this war cannot be stopped. The West, the world community will not allow it to be stopped in order to totally isolate Russia and destroy it as a state, so that this predatory beast no longer exists.

Otherwise Russia, your Russia, with its oppositionists, bandits, criminals, with everyone, must move on to legitimacy and law—that is just what it needs. If it does not, it will die and good riddance to it. Good riddance. And it will not be possible to restrain 300,000 people in this framework.

The sentences will be carried out. Russian cities will burn! We will destroy, not build, we have already learned how to do so. The 20th-century Carthage must be destroyed.

[Arakelyan] "This is terrifying," I thought and said so aloud. I asked Dzhokhar Dudayev as he was developing his apocalyptic scenario for Russia whether in his view there are any worthy people in Russia. "Not a single one," he replied without batting an eyelid. But then he made an exception for Yelena Bonner—the "heir of Sakharov is a citizen of the world," as he called her—and for Galina Starovoytova.... But he said that their voices will be lost—they are isolated. As for the rest, they just "cackle on about something, get themselves into the limelight, and reap the political dividends."

He even denied that [Human Rights Commissioner] Sergey Adamovich Kovalev is a principled man, saying that he defended Russians here: Are they not killing, looting, and raping.... It was later when he had experienced the Russian bombing raids that he mentioned the Chechens' rights too. And other State Duma deputies who came to Chechnya and spoke to him, in the general's view, are also sick. Naturally they are suffering from Russian chauvinism. And the same goes for the Soviet Army, in which he served for almost 30 years.

....At first Dzhokhar Dudayev's words had a firm ring, he spoke authoritatively, with military clarity. Then his speech became quieter although these words about Russia's future were awe-inspiring and cheerless. I was once again facing a Chechen dancing the "dikr," a man for whom all roads back are already cut off and who has only the Almighty to answer to....

Chechen Ministers Say War 'Just Beginning'

AU1004200195 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 10 Apr 95 pp 150-151

[Interview with Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yussif and State Minister Berkan Yashar by Martina Helmerich and Birgit Schwarz in Istanbul; date not given: "We Will Avenge Every Drop of Blood"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Your president, Dzhokhar Dudayev, is being hunted by the Russians and your fighters had to clear out of Shali, the last big stronghold, at the end of March. Have you lost the war for Chechnya?

[Yashar] The war is just beginning. Our troops have not fled; they have retreated to the mountains to protect the civilians. As long as the Russians think our fighters are in the towns, they bomb the people.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does Dudayev believe that he can defeat the Russian troops from an ambush?

[Yashar] Dudayev does not have any other choice. He is being forced to conduct a partisan war against the Russians. We do not have any antiaircraft defense.

[DER SPIEGEL] Where is Dudayev now, is he still in Chechnya?

[Yussif] Dudayev will die in Chechnya and be buried there. Why should he leave his country? He believes that the world has left Chechnya in the lurch. He told us so on the phone just two days ago.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Russians already control 80 percent of Chechen territory. What can the partisans do against tank divisions?

[Yashar] Even though the Russians are superior in the air, the Chechens will win on the ground. We had only three tanks at the beginning of the invasion. Meanwhile, we have captured 150 tanks and other weapons that we can use in the guerrilla war.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[DER SPIEGEL] This will hardly be sufficient to recapture the lost territory.

[Yussif] The Chechens in exile will support us, not with weapons but with money. With this we can buy their own weapons from the Russians. We are already doing this.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will Dudayev now also realize his threat and spread the war to Russian towns?

[Yashar] Our fight is not aimed at the Russian people; we are fighting against the Yeltsin regime. We are not terrorists. We believe in human rights. We will attack exclusively military facilities.

[DER SPIEGEL] But you, Mr. Foreign Minister, also declared nuclear power plants in Russia the targets of attacks.

[Yussif] We would certainly be able to carry out such acts of terrorism, but we have no intention of burning Moscow. We have a list of names of Russians and also Chechens whose hands are full of blood.

[DER SPIEGEL] A death list?

[Yussif] If possible, we will put them on trial. If this is not possible, we will kill them. Our people have been fighting against the Russians for 300 years. We have not forgotten what they have done to us. We will avenge every drop of blood.

[DER SPIEGEL] In four months of war, at least 24,000 civilians have been killed and hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee. The people are tired of war.

[Yashar] Of course, the people do not want to go on living like that. But the Chechens are proud and will continue the fight for complete independence.

[DER SPIEGEL] Did Dudayev not give in just a few weeks ago and indicate that he is not really striving for complete independence from Russia?

[Yussif] As a state that is completely surrounded, we cannot survive because we have to import virtually everything we need form Russia. We are willing to cooperate—under one condition: Russia must recognize us under international law. One thing must be ensured—Chechnya belongs to us. Autonomy is not enough; we want a confederation treaty with Russia.

[DER SPIEGEL] You demand sovereignty as a state, but you are willing to give Russia certain rights?

[Yussif] At the economic and military level, but not at the political level. We want our own government in any case.

[DER SPIEGEL] You would be willing to make your troops subordinate to the supreme command of a hostile army?

[Yussif] No. But other solutions are conceivable—for instance, the troops could be made subordinate to a joint supreme command. However, the precondition is that no Russian soldiers be stationed on Chechen territory. We do not insist on our own currency, but we want our own passports and our own coat of arms.

[DER SPIEGEL] So far, 57 percent of Chechnya's state budget has been financed by Russia. The oil industry is the republic's only source of foreign currency. Can an independent Chechnya exist without Russian subsidies at all?

[Yashar] We will market our natural resources ourselves. Chechen oil is the best in the world. Chechnya is floating on a sea of oil, which is why Moscow started this war in the first place.

[DER SPIEGEL] Chechnya provides only 1 percent of Russia's oil production. And for that, Yeltsin is supposed to have thrown himself into this war?

[Yashar] He is also waging this war because he fears that the Russian Federation will crumble if the Chechens secede.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is reconciliation between the two peoples conceivable at all?

[Yussif] Why not? Think of Israel and the Arabs.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has offered to act as a mediator in potential peace negotiations. It advocates general elections in Chechnya and insists on the participation of Dudayev's domestic opponents.

[Yashar] For that, the Russian troops would have to withdraw first. Elections that take place under the supervision of an army cannot be democratic. We ourselves have suggested to the OSCE that it should send election observers of the United Nations, the EU, and other civilian organizations. We are not against opposition candidates either—if they are not controlled by the Russians.

[DER SPIEGEL] In the past, Dudayev had opposition leaders sentenced to death in absentia. He abuses his Chechen opponents as a "vile lot of pimps."

[Yussif] This is what he calls collaborators who have become rich at the cost of the people and politicians who were in power under the communists. They fight against us because we demand back what they have stolen.

[DER SPIEGEL] Dudayev's people have not gotten rich?

[Yussif] The president has spent almost all of his life in the Soviet Union. He did not know most of those who offered themselves to him and welcomed everyone who supported the struggle for independence. However, it is a Russian propaganda lie that the Chechen Government cooperated with the mafia. Dudayev dismissed everyone of whom he was able to prove that he was involved in dirty business. Moscow, however, is now reinstating

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

convicted mafia members, such as Beslan Gentemirov, the arms dealer and former mayor of Groznyy.

[DER SPIEGEL] Even before the Russian invasion, Dudayev's sphere of power comprised only the capital of Groznyy and its immediate surroundings. What is it that really allows him to speak for all of the Chechen people?

[Yashar] Under Dudayev's leadership, Chechnya is fighting alone against a superpower. Dudayev is the symbol of our will for freedom. An overwhelming majority of the Chechens elected him president for that.

[DER SPIEGEL] One-third of the Chechen people, including the Russian inhabitants, were not permitted to participate in the elections. Is Dudayev striving for an Islamic Republic?

[Yussif] I am also minister for religious issues and I assure you that there will be freedom of religion in Chechnya. We are democrats, and we do not want any confrontation between Christians and Muslims.

[DER SPIEGEL] Speaking to 150 elders and mullahs at the end of last year, Dudayev announced the introduction of the Islamic legal system.

[Yussif] The clergy put pressure on him. But I know Dudayev. He does not want to introduce the Sharia.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why then did he promise support to the Muslim fundamentalists in Sudan in the struggle against Russia, the United States, and the entire world?

[Yussif] Sometimes Dudayev is more of a soldier than a politician. He forgets that he is a president and thinks that he is still a general. If he wanted to ally himself with fundamentalists, why then did he prevent 5,000 Afghan fellow fighters to intervene in the war?

[DER SPIEGEL] Despite such tricks, you now expect support from Bonn during your visit to Germany?

[Yashar] We have shown Western Europe and NATO that the Russian Army is an inflated balloon and consists of nothing but cardboard soldiers. The Russians wanted to conquer our country within two hours. Now they have been fighting for four months, but they have still not been able to defeat us. We have proved that the Russian Army need not be feared. Now help us to put an end to this war.

Chechen Commander Says 'Men Still Fighting'

AU1104132095 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By Isabelle Astigarraga]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khadzhi-Yurt, Russia, April 11 (AFP)—Russian planes bombed Chechen mountains in the southeast of the separatist Caucasus republic, near the border with Dagestan Tuesday [11 April].

From this village, 30 kilometres (20 miles) away, which the Russian planes flew over, eight bombs could be heard exploding. They were apparently aimed at sparsely-populated areas high in the mountains around the villages of Benoi-Vedeno or Dabro.

It was impossible to establish if there had been casualties. However, one of the Russian planes did plunge earthward during the raid, and a thick cloud of black smoke could be seen rising from the valley into which it had disappeared.

Russian planes have launched several bombing raids recently over the mountains into which most rebels have now fled following the fall of their towns to Russian forces who marched into the republic December 11 to crush a three-year-old independence drive.

Some Chechen fighters continue to fight around some of the lost towns, however.

Chechen separatists were making a stand Tuesday on the outskirts of their former strongholds of Achkoi-Martan and Samashki, which fell to Russian forces at the weekend, Shirvani Basayev, the Chechen second-in-command in Vedeno 60 kilometres (40 miles) south-east of Groznyy, told AFP.

But in Moscow, the press service of the Russian general staff said Russian forces had mopped up all Chechen resistance in the region.

Russian "troops have totally finished the operation of cleaning up Samashki and surrounding areas in the west of Chechnya," the center was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying.

Chechen resistance held out for weeks in the towns on the republic's western plain despite being surrounded by Russian forces.

Basayev admitted that the Russians took Samashki Saturday and were now also in Achkoi-Martan and neighbouring Zakan-Yurt, leaving the mountain village of Bamut as the last rebel stronghold in western Chechnya.

But he denied the Russians' claim of total control.

"The war is not yet over," he said. "At the moment, the Russians cannot truly say they control totally any of the villages they have taken."

Our men "are still fighting around Achkoi-Martan and Samashki, and also around Shali, Gudermes and even in (the Chechen capital) Groznyy," he added.

Several witnesses have said that small pockets of separatists are still fighting near villages around the town of Shali, 30 kilometres (18 miles) southeast of the Chechen capital.

"In the day we don't move, but at night we get up as far as their lines to fight a little," said Islam, who had

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

returned from two days at a Chechen position by Serjen-Yurt near Shali, his bright blue tracksuit top covered in ammunition rounds.

Several witnesses in Vedeno, meanwhile, reported that a southeastern part of the Chechen capital Groznyy had been bombed by Grad missiles Monday in the middle of the day.

"I don't know why" the Russians would do this, Basayev said, adding that Chechen forces do not risk going to Groznyy by day. Another separatist said the missile could have been fired by Chechen forces who, he said, had a Grad-missile launcher at their disposition not far from Grozny.

Basayev added that fresh talks with the Russians had started Monday without yielding any results.

Parliamentary-Level Peace Talks Proposed

LD1004214295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax)—The head of the Chechen Parliament, Akhyad Idigov, sent a telegram to the Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin proposing that peace talks be held on the parliamentary level, as Russian leaders were unwilling to hold peace talks with Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Idigov said in the telegram circulated today that the main purpose of the talks would consist in immediately ending military actions and unreasonable bloodshed, the death of tens of thousands of Chechen residents and federal troops.

Idigov said the Chechen parliament was "ready to send a delegation for such talks in Moscow, or anywhere you wish, but immediately."

An analogous telegram was sent to Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko.

Rybkin Seeks 'Evening Out' of Regions' Rights

LD0304172595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax)—Speaker of the Russian State Duma (lower house) Ivan Rybkin believes that the evening out of the rights and duties of Russian regions is the main condition for the ensuring the country takes a federal shape.

In an interview with Interfax, he said "we will consistently seek to do away with sponging in our relations, giving each part of Russia an opportunity to develop in line with its specifics."

Rybkin warned against the thirty-fold gap in subsidies to different regions, saying that "equality and justice" will be the main criterion for settling relations between themselves and their relations with Moscow.

He spoke of corresponding legislation now being drawn up and searches being made within the framework of the federal constitution.

On the possibility of reducing the number of Russia's constituent members and altering their constitutions, the Rybkin warned against artificially rushing the process.

The existing asymmetry in the status of territories (regions and national autonomies) will be evening out in the course of their economic development, he said.

To make his case, the speaker pointed to the general trend taking place around the world. As reforms are implemented Russia will consolidate its statehood, though without resorting to the Ukraine-style scenario in which Crimea's presidency was abolished and its parliament dissolved, Rybkin said.

Senate Committee Rejects Duma Bill Limiting Regional Powers

MK1104114795 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Differences" rubric: "Senators Dislike Duma Law on Regional Authorities. Lower Chamber 'Goes a Bit Too Far' Trying To Lay Down Rules for Provinces"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Senate Federation Affairs Committee recommended that upper chamber deputies kill the law passed by the State Duma "On General Principles of Organization of the System of Bodies of Power of Russian Federation Components." Federation Council Deputy Chairman Ramazan Abdulatipov said, talking with your SEGODNYA correspondent yesterday, that the Duma draft law "reflects unitarist views preached by the majority of State Duma deputies." Mr. Abdulatipov thinks that, in this law, "certain Moscow politicians are trying to force federation components into narrow artificial limits."

Speaking in yesterday's hearings, State Duma spokesman Nikolay Lysenko tried to persuade the senators that "unless the approximate scope of regional leaders' power is regulated, there may be a repetition of what happened in Central Asia—they will approve life-term presidencies in referenda...."

However, senators (many of whom are also leaders of regions) are convinced that the Duma had gone a bit too far in its attempt to "regulate" power institutions in components of the federation. A resolution of the senate committee underscores that the document passed by the State Duma "spells out in detail forms and procedures for the operation of regional bodies of state power, something which violates the constitutional rights of Russian Federation components. In view of the variety of ways in which authority is actually being organized in Russian Federation components, passing this law in its present form would, far from speeding it up, slow down the establishment of statehood in Russia's component parts."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Federation Affairs Committee recommended that their colleagues send the draft back to the State Duma "to be reworked, taking account of the right of the regions to independence [samostoyatelnost]." Senators will apparently follow this advice at the session opening today

Samara Oblast Duma Approves Budget

954F1998A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Yelena Tregubova: "Samara Budget Maintained 'in the Spirit of the Federal'—Agrarians Denied Direct Subsidies, Conversion Begins at Enterprises of the Military-Industrial Complex"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputies of the Samara Duma have approved the oblast budget. The income portion is set at R3.5 trillion [rubles], the outlays portion—at R3.9 trillion. The planned deficit of the consolidated budget is 12.6 percent.

In a conversation yesterday with this SEGODNYA journalist, Deputy Samara Governor Gabidula Khasayev emphasized that deputies approved the budget in virtually the same form as was presented by the oblast administration. "There were difficulties in the initial stage, of course—after all, the oblast does have agrarians, who draw everything in their direction, and Communists, who do not utter the words 'conversion,' 'private farmer,' and 'small business,'" the deputy head of administration acknowledged.

The greatest protests from Samara's "old business managers" were elicited by the intent of the oblast administration to initiate broad-scale conversion. For example, a large-scale Russian-German conversion program is beginning at nine defense enterprises where there is no demand for production output. "They wanted to keep producing unnecessary missiles, antiaircraft weapons, and demolitions, as before," Mr. Khasayev explained, "but we reached agreement on the output of potato-harvesting equipment manufactured according to Western technology, for which requisitions are already coming in from many neighboring oblasts." In addition, a joint project with Italian firms has been planned for producing small-scale farm equipment based on enterprises of the military-industrial complex. As a result of "broad discussions," Mr. Khasayev asserts, "the arguments set forth by those advocating reform of the military-industrial complex have received the greatest support in society—insofar as specific programs have been presented for retaining job positions while enhancing the effectiveness of production facilities." A separate "conversion line item"—of R19.8 billion—was inserted into the outlays portion of the budget to support these projects.

The oblast administration also succeeded in its fight for an "investment line item"—R47.6 billion, expenditures in support of small business—R6.9 billion, and outlays in support of proprietary farmers—R6 billion. Expenditures amounting to R32 billion were earmarked for the ecology, which local agrarians contemplated "redesignating" to their benefit. The outlays item "for selective support of promising orientations in the agro-industrial complex" remains as before one of the most impressive—R76 billion.

As of the end of last year, the Samara Oblast leadership stated it would shift to fundamentally different relations with agrarians. They are no longer promising to afford them direct state subsidies. At the same time, prices for agricultural production output were released, as a result of which so-called "nonpayments" decreased sharply and farms were provided the incentive to operate independently on the market.

The Samara authorities promise to "function within the spirit of the overall federal budget" and seek "non-inflationary ways" of covering the budget deficit. For example, local "oblast administration promissory notes" are being issued and various special-purpose loans introduced.

As Gabidula Khasayev asserted in his conversation with the SEGODNYA correspondent, in most other regions of Russia, "such liberal economic principles have not as yet been introduced, insofar as this depends exclusively on the good will of local leaders."

Economic Issues

Chubays Says Economic Situation 'Radically Changed'

LD1004212295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2016 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 10 TASS— "In the first quarter, we radically changed the economic situation in the country", said Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays. Over the first three months of 1995, "the cash supply in the country increased by just three per cent", Chubays told a briefing on Monday. According to him, this "predetermines a halt in price growth in Russia".

"In late April - early May, the situation will change dramatically", the first vice-premier emphasised. He expects the inflation rate this month to be lower than in March, next month - lower than this month, etc.

It will take time for people to feel these positive changes in their everyday life, Chubays noted. "So far, the economic situation is far from being ideal", he said. Last week, the opposition called for a vote of no convidence in the government, seeking to play on objective difficulties. However, it has missed its time favourable for an attack, the first vice-premier believes.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

As for the protest action planned by Russian trade unions for April 12, Chubays said he would meet union representatives on Tuesday. "We have something to offer to trade unions", he stressed.

Lower Inflation, Stabilization Seen in May-Jun

MK1104083395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Forecast" rubric: "Anatoliy Chubays: Stabilization as a Response to the Opposition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Price rises in Russia will halt over the next few months, First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays told journalists yesterday. He said that the growth of the money supply hit a record low in the first quarter of this year, and that this "laid a solid foundation for a future decline in inflation."

Mr. Chubays promised that "prices will grow more slowly in May than in April, and in June even more slowly than in May" and in a few months' time "people will feel genuine change in the price situation."

In the deputy prime minister's words, "a critical point has now been reached, the last chance for the opposition." He is certain, however, that "those who are trying to destabilize the situation in the run-up to the elections are three months too late, because since the end of last year the economic situation—albeit far from ideal—has noticeably stabilized."

Nonetheless, the deputy prime minister expects that in the time left before the elections the "implacable opposition" will try to inflame the situation in various regions of Russia, "where everything depends on the sentiments and views of local leaders." "The government will respond to that with a stabilization of prices in the country. This will be the most crushing blow for any opposition," Anatoliy Chubays said.

Finance Ministry Now Repaying Debts to Defense Industry

LD1004203695 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] To date the government should have started remittance of money to the defense industry. This promise was made but where is the money to be obtained? Our correspondent asked this question today of Finance Minister Panskov.

[Correspondent Andrey Murtazin] The Russian Finance Ministry has started paying its debt to workers of the military production complex amounting to 2 trillion rubles as was envisaged in the schedule of debt repayment for the year 1994. And 800 billion of this sum has been allocated directly to the defense workers' pay. This was announced in an exclusive interview to the Vremya program by Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov.

[Begin Panskov recording] If we are to speak of defense orders, yes there is a problem. We have now started repaying the debt because the defense orders are financed from the budget almost entirely. There are some consumer goods produced by those enterprises in which case the suppliers settle with them. The defense orders are entirely financed by us. Here all responsibility of course lies with the Finance Ministry. [end recording]

[Murtazin] The minister is optimistic regarding inflation. In the opinion of Vladimir Panskov in the second half of the year it can be reduced to 2-3 percent a month.

Minister Warns Duties on Crude Oil Will Raise Prices

LD0304183995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1541 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 3 (PIA-INTERFAX)—Raising the excise duty on crude oil will result in higher prices of other products of Russia's fuel and energy complex and possibly the curbing of production, Russian Deputy Fuel and Energy Minister Anatoliy Fomin told a news conference on the opening of the international exposition Oil and Gas-95 in Moscow Monday [3 April].

According to Fomin, a relevant government resolution "did not raise oil workers' exaltation," because it affects the whole economy. The step is likely to send skyrocketing the price of crude oil and therefore the rest of the prices.

Fomin said excise duties on raw materials were "purely a Russian invention," while other countries ignored such things. "If we had solved the non-payments issue by today, if we had solved taxation issues and brought the structure of fuel prices in line with international standards, I would have said the excise duties serve to seize super-profits. Today the situation in the industry is critical and another seizure of working capital will result in the curbing of production," he added.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed government resolution No. 304 on March 29, 1995 to raise the excise duty on crude oil from 22,000 to 39,200 rubles per tonne. The same resolution lowered the export duty from 23 to 20 ECU [European Currency Units] per tonne of crude oil. According to the resolution, the excise duty will continuously grow as the export duty will decline.

The excise duty was imposed on all users of underground resources by a presidential decree on August 14, 1992.

Decree Sets Index-Linked Petroleum Export Excise Duties

MM1104103795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 95

[Decree No. 304 of the Russian Federation Government "On Export Customs Duty and Excise Duty on Petroleum

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Extracted on the Territory of the Russian Federation," dated Moscow, 29 March 1995 and signed by Chairman of the Russian Federation Government V. Chernomyrdin—from the "Business in Russia" section. p 6]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with Edict No. 893 of the Russian Federation president of 14 August 1992 "On the Introduction of Excise Duty for Those Exploiting Mineral Resources on the Territory of the Russian Federation" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1992, No. 8, p 500), the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. An average weighted excise rate for marketable petroleum, including gas condensate, of 39,200 rubles [R] per tonne is set from 1 April 1995 for oil- and gas-extraction enterprises, with a subsequent monthly indexation of this rate in accordance with the change in the exchange rate of the ruble against the U.S. dollar over the previous month. At the same time, the said excise rate, set from 1 April 1995, is increased by R3,400 for each reduction of 1 ECU in the export customs duty for petroleum, including gas condensate.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, by agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, is to present proposals within two weeks on setting differentiated excise rates for petroleum, including gas condensate, for individual oil- and gas-extraction enterprises. Here provision should be made for a significant reduction in the number of oil- and gas-extraction enterprises which are exempt from paying excise for petroleum, including gas condensate, as well as for a reduction in the degree of differentiation of excise rates for petroleum, including gas condensate, for oil- and gas-extraction enterprises.

3. On the first day of each month the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance is to calculate the indexes for the change, under Point 1 of this decree, in excise rates for petroleum, including gas condensate, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy together with the Russian Federation State Taxation Service is to forward them to the oil- and gas-extraction enterprises.

4. As a partial amendment to the rates of export customs duty confirmed by Decree No. 1103 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers/Government of 30 October 1993 (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1993, No. 45, p 4340), the rate for export customs duty for petroleum, including gas condensate (Foreign Economic Activities List of Commodities code number 270900) is set at 20 ECU's per tonne from 1 April 1995.

5. The following decisions of the Russian Federation Government are deemed no longer in force:

Decree No. 320 of the Russian Federation Government of 14 April 1994 "On Excise for Petroleum Extracted on the Territory of the Russian Federation" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1994, No. 17, p 1405);

Decree No. 534 of the Russian Federation Government of 24 May 1994 "On Setting Differentiated Excise Rates for Petroleum Extracted on the Territory of the Russian Federation" (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1994, No. 5, p 495);

Decree No. 1292 of the Russian Federation Government of 25 November 1994 "On Amending Decree No. 534 of the Russian Federation Government of 24 May 1994" (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1994, No. 32, p 3356).

[Signed] Chairman of the Russian Federation Government V. Chernomyrdin.

Russia Set To End State Monopoly On Gold Exports

MS1104104495 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 11 Apr 95 p 29

[Report by Kenneth Gooding: "Russia 'To End State's Gold Export Monopoly'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia will soon end its state monopoly of gold exports, western bankers have been told. This should halt the steep fall in Russia's gold production by making it much easier to attract western capital for new projects.

Predictions about when the gold export monopoly will end range from two months to one year. Mr V.K. Yakovenko, deputy governor of the Irkutsk region and deputy chairman of Lenzoloto (Lena Gold), said yesterday he expected the gold market to be freed and Russian banks permitted to export gold in four or five months. He said a central government resolution had already been prepared as part of its objective of opening up the economy.

At present the Russian government's gold organisation Roskomdragmet (committee for precious metals), has the monopoly of gold exports. About 100 Russian banks have been authorised to buy gold but they can sell it only in the domestic market.

Mr Yakovenko said that Roskomdragmet itself was in favour of a change that would allow these banks to export gold. "If Russia does not open up the gold market then gold production will fall—and Komdragmet will get the blame."

Roskomdragmet is supposed to pay world prices for the metal it buys from domestic gold miners. However, it fixes a price once a month and pays in a mixture of US dollars and roubles. One western banker suggested this resulted in Russian mines being paid on average about 10 per cent less than the global market price last year. Also, the Russian government has kept Roskomdragmet short of funds and miners have sometimes had to wait several months for payment.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Following the recent reform, miners were permitted to sell about half their output to the authorised banks, which pay in US dollars.

Mr Yakovenko was in London with an international "roadshow" being staged by Star Mining Corporation, an Australian company, which owns 35 per cent of Lena Gold. This joint stock company has the rights to Sukhoy Log in Siberia, the world's biggest gold deposit with reserves of 50m troy ounces and resources of 100m.

It is unofficially estimated that development of the first stage of the Sukhoy Log project will cost between US$400m and $500m. Star is obliged to provide $250m towards this in the next 18 months.

Mr Stephen Fabian of NatWest Markets, National Westminster's merchant banking arm that has been appointed Star's adviser, said the freeing up of Russia's gold market would be key to the project financing because it would open the way for low-cost gold loans to be raised in the west. His colleague, Mr Graeme Newing, in a research note about Star says additional funds are expected to be provided in the form of project finance using various multi-lateral lending agencies as well as gold loans. "The participation of a major mining house in the project is another possibility," he adds.

A feasibility study on the Sukhoy Log project was scheduled to be completed by June but there have been delays in gaining access to some geological information because the deposit was deemed to be a "national treasure" by the Soviet authorities and these details were a state secret. Star said yesterday this problem had been overcome and the study should be ready in September.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

International Affairs

Under Secretary Talbott Meets With Parliament's Speaker

LD1004153895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1240 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 10 (Interfax)—U.S. Under-Secretary of State Strobe Talbott hopes that the U.S. Congress will take into account the Ukrainian contribution to the nuclear disarmament process when discussing aid to foreign nations.

Talbott told Ukrainian parliament speaker Oleksandr Moroz on Monday that the U.S. fully shares the principles voiced in the Ukrainian Declaration of Independence.

In his turn Moroz stressed that Ukrainian policy "proceeds from principles of neutrality and non-involvement in any blocs that are envisaged by the Independence Declaration."

"One should view the Ukrainian status as that of a state with permanent neutrality guaranteed by powerful states," noted the speaker. "The permanent neutrality status does not run counter to Ukrainian participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace program and cannot destabilize the military-political systems of the world."

Moroz proposed that an international conference be held, with the aim of making the Black Sea region a zone of peace. In his opinion, the conference to involve Black Sea states, the United States and other powerful states could help reduce military confrontation in the region.

Kuchma, U.S. Under Secretary Talbott Meet in Kiev

LD1004172495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 10 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met with U.S. Under-Secretary of State Strobe Talbott in Kiev on Monday.

"We are glad that U.S. President Bill Clinton will arrive in Ukraine. We attach great political importance to his visit," said Kuchma opening the meeting.

The talks will be held behind closed doors and deal with a rather wide range of problems, said Kuchma.

The talks will also involve chief of the presidential staff Dmitri Tabachnik and U.S. ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller.

Spokesman on Results of Talks

LD1004172995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 10 (Interfax-Ukraine)—The U.S. does not support the position of some European countries conditioning aid to Ukraine to certain terms, in particular, closing the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Chief of Staff of the Ukrainian President's Administration Dmitriy Tabachnik told journalists that such a statement was made by U.S. Deputy State Secretary Strobe Talbott during his meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in Kiev today.

Tabachnik said Talbott had confirmed that the U.S. believed that a sovereign Ukraine must exist within its present borders.

Tabachnik said the parties had also discussed NATO's enlargement. Talbott said the U.S. believed that "Europe must be single and stable." He said it was inadmissible that Ukraine be a "buffer" after redrawing the borders of blocs.

The Ukrainian president earlier said that NATO's enlargement must be a natural process instead of a spontaneous one. Kuchma has repeatedly stated that he is against "revolutionary" and "uncontrolled" enlargement of the bloc.

Tabachnik said the U.S. and Ukraine had discussed the ideas which could be the basis for "important documents." Tabachnik said the documents were expected to be signed during the visit of the U.S. president Bill Clinton to Kiev planned for May 11.

The Ukrainian president said that the U.S. president's visit to Kiev was of "big political importance for Ukraine."

Defense Minister Discusses Military Issues With Talbott

WS1104082195 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0732 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As reported by UKRINFORM's Kiev correspondent, Ukraine's Vice Premier and Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov met with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott at the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on Monday, April 10. Issues involving relations between Ukraine and the United States, including ways of broadening economic and military cooperation and Ukraine's participation in NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program were discussed during the meeting. Mr. Shmarov and his guest also discussed issues involving NATO, security in the country's of the former USSR, the Black Sea Navy Fleet and the Crimean crisis. Mr. Talbott is in Ukraine at the head of a United States delegation to make preparations for the forthcoming visit to Ukraine by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Shmarov Favors Increasing Peacekeeping Units in Former Yugoslavia

LD1004215295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1906 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 10 (Interfax-Ukraine)—The Ukrainian Defense Ministry will conduct consultations with the command of the UN peacekeeping forces in ex-Yugoslavia and then urge the Ukrainian parliament to increase the size of the Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent, Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov told a press conference in Kiev today.

He said the Defense Ministry would propose that a battalion of engineering troops and an additional aviation unit be sent to ex-Yugoslavia.

There are now 1,132 Ukrainian servicemen in the Yugoslav region, including two battalions with 551 servicemen in each, nine policemen and ten military observers.

Eleven Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and about 60 wounded over the two years and six months the Ukrainian peacekeepers have been stationed in ex-Yugoslavia.

The Ukrainian parliament passed a decision to raise the number of men in the UN forces' Ukrainian contingent from 600 to 1,200 in early 1994.

Ukraine has been receiving from the UN a monthly $3 million for its contingent's work in the Bosnian conflict zone until late. The monthly wage of a Ukrainian senior officer has reached $900, senior officers $650 and soldiers and sergeants $550.

Ukraine, China To Cooperate in Defense Technology

LD1004172195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1435 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Ukraine and China have signed an agreement on military cooperation and a framework agreement on military and technical cooperation, Valeriy Shmarov, first deputy prime minister and minister of defense said at a briefing on 10 April in Kiev. The agreements were signed by the Ukrainian and Chinese defense ministers during a Ukrainian Government delegation's visit to China last week.

According to the defense minister, China continues to be one of Ukraine's primary economic partners. He said it was necessary to improve the legal basis of relations between the two countries, particularly regarding preferential credits, to liven up export and import transactions.

The minister said the Chinese side was mainly interested in attracting Ukrainian high technology on to its market and upgrading its military equipment at Ukrainian enterprises.

Defense Minister Reports on Visit to China, NPT Affirmation

WS1104101095 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0305 GMT 11 Apr 95

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Viktor Zamiatin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 10—The trade turnover between Ukraine and China reached $830 million last year, a 40 percent boost since 1993, Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov said Monday on his return from China after participation in a session of the Ukrainian-Chinese Commission for Economic Cooperation.

The upward trend in trade coincided with the decline in China's trade with the rest of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which declined by about 40 percent last year.

Moreover, Ukraine has a favorable balance of trade with China, according to Shmarov. In 1994, Ukrainian imports from China lagged behind exports, which included not only raw materials but high-tech goods. The low quality of Chinese goods contributed to the trade imbalance, according to Shmarov.

The potential of both economies allow for a drastic increase in trade, Shmarov believes.

During the Chinese tour, Shmarov visited Chinese military units, headquarters and naval ships. Although Shmarov said that China plans no large-scale import of Ukrainian military hardware, he said Ukraine expressed its readiness to improve military cooperation through a technological exchange program including the repair and upgrade of used military equipment. The Ukrainians and Chinese also signed a protocol on military cooperation during the visit.

Ukraine reaffirmed its wish to prolong the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] as long as possible, while China remained non- committal on this point, according to Shmarov.

National Affairs

Railroad Accident Causes Temporary Rise in Radiation

AU1104074395 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 8 Apr 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Three Wagon-Loads of Uranium Have Overturned"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of an accident at the entrance to the Znamyanka Station [either in Donetsk or Kirovohrad Oblast], seven wagon-loads of uranium ore derailed, and three of them overturned. One hundred meters of railway were destroyed, and the background radiation at the site rose to between 150 and 480 microroentgen.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

An operational group of the oblast Civil Defense Headquarters that arrived at the place of the accident, together with railroad workers and representatives of other services, did their best to eliminate the consequences of the accident as fast as they could. Control measurements conducted afterward showed that the radiation background did not exceed the permissible level. Train traffic was not halted during the emergency operations.

Drobotov Interviewed on Crimean Situation

954F2005B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Crimean Prime Minister A. Drobotov by T. Aleksyuk; place and date not given: "Two Masters Spoil the Broth"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The ambiguous situation in the Crimean Government is nonplussing the inhabitants of the peninsula. According to the Crimean parliament, our prime minister is Anatoliy Drobotov, to the minister of justice of Ukraine, Anatoliy Franchuk.**

[Aleksyuk] How do you perceive your position?

[Drobotov] I will say frankly that my appointment as prime minister came as a surprise to me. The conversation took place directly during the session when the appointment was made. That same evening I requested a meeting of Anatoliy Romanovich. But it did not take place.

[Aleksyuk] Anatoliy Ivanovich, do you not think that A. Franchuk should have been contacted before the decision to appoint you was made?

[Drobotov] This did not come about, unfortunately. This was how the situation had taken shape in parliament. The next day Franchuk summoned me himself. I went to the hospital together with Tsekov. Anatoliy Romanovich and Sergey Pavlovich spoke, naturally, about the causes of the current situation.

[Aleksyuk] Sergey Pavlovich presented the criticisms?

[Drobotov] He spoke about Franchuk's actions aimed at demolishing parliament.

[Aleksyuk] Which actions precisely?

[Drobotov] Franchuk had said that parliament was impeding the government's work. Tsekov showed that parliament had granted the government wide-ranging powers and had not prevented it working. The sole thing to which we drew the premier's attention was the behavior of certain members of the government, who were involving themselves not in economics but in politics, and this was addressed specifically to Deputy Prime Minister A. Senchenko. Anatoliy Romanovich said here that he had intended putting a stop to this and removing Senchenko from the government.

[Aleksyuk] What blame specifically was imputed to the vice premier?

[Drobotov] I do not know the details. In the government I dealt with what I was authorized to deal with—agriculture and food.

Alone with Anatoliy Romanovich also, incidentally, after the speaker had left, we agreed not to pour dirt on one another.

[Aleksyuk] He agreed with the fact that you would head the government?

[Drobotov] No, he said that time would tell. I believe this: In all things let the law judge between us.

[Aleksyuk] The minister of justice of Ukraine emphasized once again during the session of the national government on the Crimean question that the law in relation to Franchuk had been broken at least twice. First, a person in a state of temporary disability was relieved of office, second, at the time of his dismissal parliament had been deprived of constitutional authority, as regards government reshuffles included.

[Drobotov] Whether the law on the government is good or bad, it should be complied with. Perhaps it should be revised. As for the rest, I shall once again defer to what the legislators sort out.

[Aleksyuk] Then, if you'll permit me, a question of a moral nature. You worked in Franchuk's team and agreed to occupy his place, his illness notwithstanding. How do you feel in this situation?

[Drobotov] I was, indeed, invited into the government by A. Franchuk. I was, I confess, most reluctant to be there. But I agreed since a very important area of work was without control. The situation involving replacement of the premier is morally difficult for me. But we do not know what the situation could have been at that moment had I not consented.

[Aleksyuk] Could the situation have deteriorated even more?

[Drobotov] Perhaps it could have.

[Aleksyuk] Why was the Government of Crimea represented by A. Demidenko at the session of the Government of Ukraine at which the chairman of the Crimean parliament that had appointed you was present?

[Drobotov] The delegation left for Kiev suddenly. I was in Chernomorskiy Rayon at this time with the vice premier of Ukraine for the agro-industrial complex.

[Aleksyuk] Anatoliy Ivanovich, have your political views always coincided with those to which a majority of parliament adheres?

[Drobotov] Not a majority of parliament but all of it, and many people in the Supreme Council of Ukraine and President L. Kuchma have spoken of a single economic

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

space within the framework of the CIS. And I have adhered to this viewpoint. Unfortunately, we are continuing to build walls, not get closer together. As formerly the leader of a farm and as quite recently even minister of agriculture and now as prime minister, I maintain that Crimea cannot exist without an outlet to the market of the CIS countries.

[Aleksyuk] You believe that Crimea is capable of "breaking down the wall" unilaterally?

[Drobotov] No. By way of the realization of legislative initiatives we must push the Government of Ukraine in this direction.

[Aleksyuk] Anatoliy Ivanovich, what kind of baggage have you brought to the leadership of the Government of Crimea? What have you gotten done in the office of minister of agriculture and food?

[Drobotov] The farms of Crimea greeted last fall in a state of bankruptcy. The sowing campaign was being undertaken without us having the initial cereals quota even. There was a shortfall in the sowing of winter crops of 170,000 hectares, 220,000 hectares of underwinter fallow was not plowed, and 50,000 hectares of bare fallow was not touched. The head of livestock was sharply reduced. We have as of today made up for what was lost and we are operating in the customary mode in the laying in of the harvest in plant-growing. True, fertilizer has been held up for financial reasons and through the fault of the Government of Ukraine, but it is now being shipped. The slump in animal husbandry and poultry breeding has been arrested. We did not manage only to purchase in good time wheat for food in other regions. Now a loaf will cost us 2.5 times as much. And we have still not settled accounts with the farms for our, Crimean, products, and have not indexed them, and the debt constitutes 107 billion karbovantsy.

[Aleksyuk] This is a miscalculation of the Franchuk government?

[Drobotov] It is our miscalculation. Although the Ministry of Agriculture and Food raised this matter constantly. On the whole, the situation as regards Crimea's economy is even more disturbing. The debts for electric power alone constitute 3.7 trillion karbovantsy, for gas, 3.5 trillion. There are enormous debts in the publicly funded sphere and in industry.

[Aleksyuk] What needs to be done for the economic crisis to be overcome?

[Drobotov] We cannot rely merely on what Ukraine will give us, nor has it given us that much, incidentally. Only 100 billion karbovantsy for the drought. Although thanks even for this. There needs to be as much initiative as possible from below, as many proposals as possible, which is what is needed of the government. The majority of it is professional, incidentally. But there are also unscrupulous people here, and we need to be rid of them. We should devise a mechanism of the startup of production and organize the resort season properly and obtain the maximum resources for the treasury from this. Yes, stability is needed for this. Why, for example, does Italy have this stability, despite the fact that the government there changes 12 times a year? There are no indispensables.

Law on Ukrainian Citizenship Explained

954F2007A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

[Release from Public Relations Center of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs Main Administration in Crimea: "Once Again on Citizenship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The passport and visa service of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] Main Administration in Crimea has been receiving numerous inquiries lately from Crimean residents regarding current Ukrainian legislation on citizenship.

Citizenship is defined as a person's permanent legal affiliation with a state, which protects its citizens' rights and interests not only on the territory of that state but also outside it.

In keeping with the Ukrainian constitution and the law "On Ukrainian Citizenship," which went into effect on 13 November 1991, Ukraine does not permit dual citizenship, that is, a Ukrainian citizen's citizenship affiliation with a foreign state is not recognized.

Point 1 of Article 2 of this law envisages that all persons who at the time the law "On Ukrainian Citizenship" went into effect resided on the territory of Ukraine, were not citizens of other state, and did not object against acquiring Ukrainian citizenship, became citizens of Ukraine.

In addition, in keeping with Point 2 of Article 2 of this law, the following persons also are Ukrainian citizens: "Persons who work on state assignment, serve in the military, or study outside Ukraine, or have legally established permanent residence in another country, and expressed a wish to become citizens of Ukraine no later than five years after this law went into effect—provided that they were born in Ukraine or have the proof that they resided permanently in Ukraine before emigrating abroad."

Documentary proof of Ukrainian citizenship is a passport containing the relevant notation of the internal affairs agency. In the near future all Ukrainian citizens will be issued new passports, which already have been printed and are being distributed by the Ukrainian State Mint.

Ukrainian citizenship is forfeited when a person enlists in a military service, security service, police, or justice agencies of foreign states without the consent of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ukraine's state bodies, and if a Ukrainian citizen abroad has not registered with the consular service within five years.

It should be especially noted that persons who have forfeited Ukrainian citizenship, as well as those who took the citizenship of another state, including CIS countries, acquire the legal status equated to that of foreigners and stateless persons. They are not hired into bodies of state authority, cannot participate in housing privatization, are limited in their movement on the territory of Ukraine, lose their right to vote, and their taxes increase substantially—approximately three- to five-fold.

In addition, foreign travel passports issued to stateless persons are valid for only one trip abroad. They pay for the issuance of each subsequent permission to travel abroad a service fee in the national currency of Ukraine equivalent to $15; obtaining the foreign passport of another state, however—for instance, Russia—is a lengthy process for such persons.

Residents of the autonomous Republic of Crimea who sent inquiries regarding obtaining citizenship of another state are advised that for this they need to first contact organs of internal affairs at their place of residence and file a petition addressed to the president of Ukraine requesting revocation of their Ukrainian citizenship.

Acceptance by the consular group of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine of documents of Crimean residents who have not renounced their Ukrainian citizenship, including for registration purposes, constitutes a gross violation of current Ukrainian legislation and is contrary to the provisions of the 1963 Vienna convention "On Consular Relations."

Dual citizenship is permitted only on the basis of bilateral interstate agreements; however, so far Ukraine has not signed such agreements with other states. The practice of international law shows that the current world trend is for states to move away from dual citizenship.

We would like every Crimean resident to be aware that by filing a petition with the consular group of the Russian Federation in Ukraine and acquiring Russian citizenship they are violating current Ukrainian legislation, with all the consequences stemming from this act.

Law on Status of Crimea

954K0538A Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 18 Mar 95 pp 3, 5

[Law of Ukraine "On the Autonomous Republic of Crimea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Article 1. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea is an administrative-territorial autonomy that is a constituent part of Ukraine.

Article 2. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea independently decides questions made subject to its jurisdiction by the Constitution of Ukraine, this Law, other laws of Ukraine, and the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Article 3. The Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and changes and additions to it are adopted by the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and enter into force subject to approval by the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

The Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is an organic part of the legislation of Ukraine and may not contravene the Constitution of Ukraine.

Article 4. On questions made subject to its jurisdiction, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea has the right to pass legislative acts, which may not contravene the Constitution of Ukraine, this Law and other laws of Ukraine, as well as the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The laws of Ukraine that have been passed on questions made subject to the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea are in force on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea until the passage of appropriate legislative acts of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Article 5. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea exists within the boundaries of the territory of the former Crimean Oblast as a constituent part of Ukraine. The city of Sevastopol is an administrative-territorial unit that is subordinated to the central state government and is not part of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The status of the city of Sevastopol is defined by the laws of Ukraine.

Article 6. The organ of legislative power of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The organ of executive power of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The organs of local government in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea are village, rural settlement, rayon, city, and city district councils and their executive bodies.

The courts, procuracy organs, and subdivisions of the Security Service of Ukraine and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea are formed and act in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

Article 7. The state symbols of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea are the state symbols of Ukraine.

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea may have its own symbols: emblem, lag, and anthem. Their description and procedure for use are defined by the law of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea may use its own symbols only side by side with the state symbols of Ukraine.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Article 8. The following are subject to the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as personified by its government organs:

1) interpreting the laws of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and enforcing compliance with these laws;

2) deciding questions pertaining to the administrative-territorial system of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, establishing and changing the boundaries of rayons and population centers, changing the status of population centers to that of a city, naming and renaming cities, rayons, city districts, towns, and villages;

3) defining the powers and functions of republican (Autonomous Republic of Crimea) organs and organs of local authority (local self-government) and associations of citizens;

4) scheduling elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and approving the composition of the Central Electoral Commission;

5) conducting referendums in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on questions subject to its jurisdiction;

6) realizing the right of ownership to objects that belong to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;

7) defining the structure and priority goals of the economic development of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, ensuring scientific-technical progress, creating and operating free economic zones in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine, licensing and establishing export quotas for products of its own manufacture;

8) drafting and approving programs for the economic, social, and national-cultural development and environmental protection of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and implementing these;

9) establishing revenues earmarked to create the budget of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;

10) preparing and approving the budget of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on the basis of a unified taxation policy of Ukraine;

11) defining the status of locations as health resorts, establishing the sanitary protection zones of health resorts and their legal regime;

12) deciding issues pertaining to ecological safety, the rational utilization, protection, and replacement of natural resources, declaring quarantines and natural disaster zones;

13) implementing policies in the fields of education, culture, health care, physical culture and sports, social security, as well as the protection and use of historical and cultural monuments;

14) participating in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of citizens and national harmony, promoting law enforcement and public safety;

15) developing and implementing a scientifically justified demographic policy and urban development and housing policies;

16) safeguarding the functioning and development of the state and national languages and cultures on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;

17) participating in the development and implementation of state programs for the return of deported peoples to Crimea;

18) establishing honorary titles of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea may be delegated additional powers by the laws of Ukraine.

Article 9. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea takes part in shaping and implementing Ukraine's domestic political and external economic activity in matters that involve the interests of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea enters into relations with official bodies of other states and international organizations only in matters pertaining to the economy, environmental protection, and cultural relations that are subject to its jurisdiction as provided for by the Law and other laws of Ukraine.

Article 10. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea as personified by the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea has the right of legislative initiative in the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Article 11. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea as personified by its legislative and executive bodies and local government bodies ensures compliance on its territory with the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, the acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine, and national programs for socioeconomic and cultural development.

Article 12. The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea may apply to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to recognize as invalid on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea those legislative acts of Ukraine, edicts of the President of Ukraine, and acts of the organs of state executive power of Ukraine that violate the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Should the Constitutional Court of Ukraine recognize as invalid certain legal acts of Ukraine on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the Supreme Council of Ukraine or, accordingly, the President of Ukraine is obliged to regularize the legal relations that have ensued as a result of the enforcement of these acts.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Article 13. The powers of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea may be terminated ahead of schedule if this body:

1) has violated the Constitution of Ukraine and the laws of Ukraine and does not adhere to these in its decisions;

2) has adopted a decision aimed at violating the territorial integrity of Ukraine or arbitrarily changing its state-territorial system;

3) is unable to form the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea within two months following the date of the election of at least two-thirds of the total number of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The decision regarding the early termination of the powers of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and scheduling new elections to this Council is made by the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Should the powers of the Supreme Council be terminated, the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea continues to perform its duties until a new Government is formed by the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea of the subsequent convocation.

Article 14. Ukraine is the guarantor of the legal status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as provided for by the Constitution of Ukraine and this Law.

[Signed] President of Ukraine L. KUCHMA
Kiev
17 March 1995

Decree of the Supreme Council of Ukraine: On the Procedure for Enacting the Law of Ukraine "On the Autonomous Republic of Crimea"

The Supreme Council of Ukraine hereby resolves:

1. To enact the Law of Ukraine "On the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" on the day that this law is published.

2. To recognize the following as no longer valid:

The Law of Ukraine "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" Vidomosti Verkhovnoyi Rady Ukrayiny, 1992, No. 30, p. 419);

The Law of Ukraine "On the Division of Powers between the Organs of State Government of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea" (Holos Ukrayiny, 3 October 1992).

[Signed] Chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine
O. MOROZ
Kiev, 17 March 1995

Background of Crimea Crisis Traced

954F1959A Kiev MOST in Russian No 12, 27 Mar-2 Apr 95 pp 4-5

[Article by Olga Len: "The Crimean Crisis: The Apogee or Just the Beginning of the Real Events?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Supreme Council of Ukraine has eliminated the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea adopted by the Supreme Council of Crimea along with the changes and additions made to it subsequently. It has also eliminated the laws of the autonomous entity on elections of the president, on the president, and on restoration of the constitutional principles of the statehood of the Republic of Crimea. In the Ukrainian parliament 246 deputies voted in favor of this. By a decision of the Ukrainian parliament the post of the president of Crimea was also eliminated. It has been decided to initiate a court case against this. Meshkov is accused of issuing edicts that contradict legislation of Ukraine.

The Supreme Council adopted at the first reading changes in the Constitution of Ukraine pertaining to regulation of relations with Crimea. The corrections established that the organ of legislative power of the Republic of Crimea is the Supreme Council of Crimea and the autonomous Republic of Crimea is a territorial autonomous entity that is a part of Ukraine and independently solves problems placed under its jurisdiction by the Constitution of Ukraine and the law of Ukraine on the autonomous entity of the Republic of Crimea. And the chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, Aleksandr Moroz, has stated that the Ukrainian parliament in resolving the Crimean issue has always acted in a balanced manner in keeping with democratic principles.

At a news conference the speaker added that the decision of the Supreme Council regarding Crimea could not worsen relations between Ukraine and Russia because this is an internal problem of Ukraine that has been resolved within the framework of the Ukrainian Constitution and in compliance with international norms.

The rigid position of the Ukrainian parliament was also supported in a speech at a session of parliament by President of Ukraine L. Kuchma, who accused the leaders of the Crimean autonomous entity of separatist intentions and approved the radical measures proposed by the deputies.

The press service of the president of Crimea released a statement in which it is asserted that the constitutional principles (of the Crimean Constitution, of course—O.L.) must be inviolable—nobody has the right to prevent Crimea from fulfilling its destiny in a peaceful and democratic way.

In the tone of this statement one can hear the utterances of the deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea regarding the decisions adopted by Kiev—Deputy V. Mezhak stated: "The Crimean parliament will declare the laws of Ukraine invalid on the territory of Crimea." The chief of Meshkov's administration, M. Chernyakhevich, did not rule out the possibility that as a result of such a decision on the part of the Supreme Council of Ukraine the moratorium on conducting a referendum regarding the status of Crimea may be removed. Deputy S. Bakharev, who represents the opposition to the leadership of the parliament of Crimea and the president, stated that he feels a sense of deep satisfaction with the decision of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

official Kiev since "it helped the sick and suffering Crimea to rid itself of a disease through surgical intervention." In order to understand what has actually happened it is necessary to discuss in greater detail the prehistory of Crimean separatism and the economic situation on the peninsula, and also to answer the question of why Ukraine chose this particular moment for resolute actions.

The Development of Crimean Separatism

It goes without saying that neither the political embodiment of Crimean separatism nor the aggravation of the Crimean economic crisis could occur outside the internal processes in Crimean society itself. The beginning of the mass separatist movement may be dated back to 25 April 1992 when the founding meeting of the "Russian-speaking population" of Crimea took place in Simferopol, the capital of the autonomous entity. There a decision was made to create the Congress of Peoples of Crimea. And it was then, at the founding meeting, that it became apparent that there was no common view of the future of Crimea even within the "movement of Russian speakers." The general opinion was expressed at that time by the chairman of the Russian Society of Crimea (RTK), O. Los. "All of us," he asserted on 30 April 1992, "Russians, Ukrainians, Tatars, Jews etc.—are Russians." But there were also more radical viewpoints: For example, People's Deputy of Crimea Liliya Levchenko called those officers of the Black Sea Fleet who laid the basis for the adoption of the oath of allegiance to Ukraine "gangsters."

Within a short period of time the new culturological formation fully defined its political positions. In an interview with UPRESSA on 1 May 1992, O. Los worded the programmatic principles of the new organization as follows: "The goal, frankly, is the restoration of the USSR... Crimea is playing its historical role just as clearly as it did 2,000 years ago by giving the civil and ethnic Russian people, including Ukrainians, spirituality, culture, and religion." The Russian Society of Crimea has been renamed the Russian Movement of Crimea (RDK), the structures of the RDK have grown, and branches of it have been created in the majority of population points of Crimea.

With the adoption by the Crimean parliament of the "act of state independence..." the political situation on the peninsula stabilized somewhat, although the actions of the extremely right-wing Russian and Ukrainian political forces showed that the crisis had not been resolved but only dampened. One of the leaders of the RDK, Deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the Sevastopol City Council, Aleksandr Kruglov, in December 1992 called for "an armed struggle against Ukrainian dominance in Crimea since if there were a Ukrainian-Russian conflict over Crimea, the Black Sea Fleet and other forces faithful to Russia would block Crimea in three hours and would impose complete order in three days."

In 1993 the main activity of the separatist forces shifted to Sevastopol, which began to be visited by noted Russian politicians and sociopolitical figures. During 26-28 February 1993 Crimea was visited by a group of right-wing Russian writers—the editors in chief of LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA and DEN, Ye. Romonov and O. Prokhanov, members of the board of the Union of Writers of Russia, G. Kalyuzhnyy and S. Zhuravlev, and also P. Proskurin, I. Shafarevich, and others who are known for their extreme chauvinistic views. They visited the ships and the military units and met with certain leaders and members of the officers' assemblies of the Black Sea Fleet. On 28 February on the initiative of the chairman of the Sevastopol committee of the Russian "National Salvation Front" (FNS), A. Kruglov, on the central square of the city a meeting was organized with residents of the city (about 200 people) where he announced: "We will not submit to occupation forces. This is Russia's territory and we will obey only Russia."

The propaganda of Crimean separatism, actively supported by certain political circles in Moscow, has increasingly assumed anti- Semitic and xenophobic features. On 15 June 1993 the deputy group of the Sevastopol Council of People's Deputies "Russian Sevastopol and Crimea," the Republican Party of Crimea, the All-Crimean Voters' Movement, and the Union of Russians of Crimea appealed to the chairman of the Russian parliament, R. Khasbulatov, and President of Russia B. Yeltsin, requesting that they include in the text of the draft Constitution of Russia an article about the status of Sevastopol. The Russian internal political standoff between the president of Russia and the Russian parliament began to have reverberations in Crimea. A Crimean branch of the National Salvation Front, which opposes President Yeltsin, was created and headed by that same A. Kruglov, and high official politicians from Russia began to visit Crimea, drawing the population of the autonomous entity into the general political struggle in Russia. The Government of the Russian Federation, in turn, tried to demonstrate its aloofness from the actions of other Russian politicians. The apotheosis of the activity of pro-Russian separatists at this time was the congress of the "Slavic Unity" party held in Kiev with the participation of the RDK and FNS, which considered the resettlement of Tatars in Crimea to be the main threat to "East European Slavism." It is pointed out in the program documents that the party sets as its goal "the unification of Slavic states in the face of American expansion, the attack of Islamic fundamentalism on the Slavic world, and the growing Chinese threat." On 25 August the leader of the Crimean branch of the FNS, A. Kruglov, stated that Sevastopol television workers headed by the editor in chief of STV, Boris Yeskin, are "agents of world Zionism."

In January and February 1994, with the elections of the president of Crimea and the Supreme Council of Crimea the Crimean separatist movement, which prior to that had manifested itself in the activity of a number of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

public organizations, gradually moved over to parliament, although the RDK and FNS continued its activity outside parliament.

Russia's Influence on the Political Situation in Crimea

The position of official Moscow regarding Crimea has not changed for years—Russian officials have repeatedly asserted that "Crimea is the internal affair of Ukraine." But the actual actions on the Russian side show something else. The detonator of the Crimean crisis might be considered to be the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, from the appearance in March 1992 of B. Yeltsin's notorious edict, according to which the Government of the Russian Federation took on the obligation of social protection of the seamen, and on the ships of the Fleet there was an order "to raise Russian Andreyev flags again..., the conditions for basing the ships in ports of Ukraine and the transfer of units to the armed forces of the Ukraine were to be determined in negotiations between the two states."

The Supreme Council of Ukraine began to react to events in Sevastopol: A deputy and chief of People's Rukh, Vyacheslav Chernovil, called for parliament to send a note of protest against Russia's behavior in the UN Security Council. The parliament's actions were also supported by Ukrainian political parties. The Ukrainian Republican Party (URP) on 10 April 1992 adopted a statement regarding the trip of Vice President of the Russian Federation A. Rutskoy to Crimea, characterizing it as "a provocatory voyage of a high government official of a neighboring state used by Mr. Rutskoy to inflame interethnic hostility."

Radical circles outside parliament in Kiev reacted much more radically. A people's deputy of Ukraine, at that time deputy chairman of the URP, Stepan Khmara, made a trip to Crimea heading a group of members of the UNA-UNSO, which evoked a great negative response among the Crimean population. It was at that time that the split occurred in the attitude of Ukrainian political forces toward Crimean events: On 18 April 1992 the chairman of the URP, L. Lukyanenko, expressed "disagreement with the actions of his deputy S. Khmara—the ill-considered statements against the president of Ukraine and the provocatory raid in Crimea."

At the same time Ukraine stepped up diplomatic efforts regarding the resolution of the problem of the Black Sea Fleet and negotiations of state delegations of Ukraine and Russia began during 29-30 April in Odessa.

Pressure on Ukraine from Russia in the Crimean question became considerably more appreciable after 21 May 1992 when the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation adopted the decree "On a Legal Assessment of the Decisions of the Supreme Organ of State Power of the RSFSR Regarding Changing the Status of Crimea, Adopted in 1954," which denies the legality of the existence of Crimea as a part of Ukraine. On 23 April 1992 People's Deputy of Russia S. Baburin in a conversation with the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Ukraine to Russia, V. Kryzhanovskiy, on the eve of the "Crimean" session of the Russian Parliament, stated: "If we do not take Crimea from you, a war will begin between Russia and Ukraine."

The Economic Situation in Ukraine and Its Influence on the Situation in Crimea

There is no doubt that the economic crisis in Ukraine and Crimea is one of the most important causes of the general Crimean crisis. Indeed, in 1993, according to data from the International Organization of Labor, Ukraine set an absolute record for the minimum wage of $1.5 per month—this is less than anywhere else in the world. Recognizing the delayed beginning of economic reforms in Ukraine in general and in Crimea in particular, Prime Minister of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma said in his speech on 6 February 1993 at a news conference "On the Economic Situation in Ukraine and Crimea and Ways of Stabilizing It" in Simferopol that "the economic situation in Crimea is somewhat better than in other regions, although the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol will receive a certain amount of aid from the Government of Ukraine."

The economic situation in Crimea is also complicated by the fact that things are worse on the peninsula than, for example, in Kharkov and Zaporozhye Oblasts of Ukraine because of Russia. The volume of trade in industrial goods with Russia has decreased threefold. The large shipyards in Kerch and Feodosiya have been left without their permanent Russian orders. The Feodosiya production association More is filling military orders and producing passenger hydrofoils, which are also export products. A large enterprise of this same type—the Morskoy Zovod imeni Ordzhonikidze Production Association—is located in Sevastopol. These enterprises are closely linked to the Russian military-industrial complex and therefore improvement of their economic situation is hardly possible in the near future. And conversion is meeting with resistance both from the administration and from hired workers of the enterprises.

The crisis in Crimea is also complicated by the disputes regarding the principles of conducting privatization on the peninsula. In the attempt to subordinate Crimean branches of the State Property Fund of Crimea to the Supreme Council of Crimea one can see the activity of lobbyists for certain interested financial groups on the peninsula. Tension is also added by the fact that although with the help of "leasing with the right to buy," about 10 percent of the enterprises of Crimea have already been privatized, a considerable share, for example, of the health resort institutions on the peninsula belong to state organizations of various countries. And after the proclamation by its parliament in August 1994 of a moratorium on the privatization of state property, Ukraine did not initiate privatization in Crimea either.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Assessing the peninsula's economic condition the former prime minister of Crimea, Yevgeniy Saburov, in September 1994 stated "Crimea has not grown to the point of statehood..., Crimean politicians wanted to separate from Ukraine not in order to join to Russia but in order to act independently, they are attracted by the possibility... of disposing of real estate. The privatization program proposed by the Government of Crimea was not supported because certain deputies of Crimea 'were not allowed to cut Crimea into pieces and sell it.'"

The Ethnic Problem in Crimea

The problem of the Crimean Tatars in Crimea remains one of those on whose solution the general condition of the political situation on the peninsula depends. Although the political interests of the Crimean Tatars were partially satisfied by the presence of their representatives in the Crimean parliament, they do not like everything going on in the negotiating process between Kiev and Simferopol. The "Agreement between Delegations of the Supreme Council of Ukraine and the Supreme Council of Crimea on Delimitation of Authority between Ukraine and Crimea" signed in 1992 between Kiev and Simferopol evoked a strongly negative reaction from them. In the statement from the majlis of the Crimean Tatar people of 12 April 1992 it was stated that "the so-called 'agreement...,' drawn up behind the backs of the Crimean Tatar people, will not be recognized by the Crimean Tatars as obligatory for them and will release the Crimean Tatar people... of any obligations regarding the Ukrainian state as a legal sovereign power on the territory of Crimea."

Both Kiev and Crimea have tried to solve the problem of resettling the ethnic population of Crimea—the Crimean Tatars—to the Fatherland. Although official Kiev has taken certain measures to ease this problem by creating a Republic Commission on Affairs of Deported Peoples of Crimea, with the acting first deputy prime minister, V. Yevtukhov, appointed as its chairman and the first deputy minister of economics of Crimea, L. Minin, as its first deputy chairman, subsequent activity of this commission turned out to be less than effective since it did not take into account the problem of finding jobs for the Crimean Tatars who were returning and are returning now. For example, in 1993 the official statistics of the Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine show that the level of unemployment in Crimea was only 0.3 percent of the overall number of workers, while in reality the unemployment level was much higher.

There are no signs that the Governments of Ukraine and Crimea have and are introducing a well-considered policy of employment of Crimean Tatars. Ukraine has allotted a certain amount of funds for Crimean Tatars which, however, was not intended for creating new jobs or enlisting people to create them but was intended formally "for measures related to the return of Crimean Tatars, Germans, and other deported peoples," in an amount of 1,356,699 million karbovantsy. Although, as the press reported in October 1994, "In order to solve the range of problems related to the return of Crimean Tatars to Crimea, the Government of Ukraine is envisioning the allotment of 4.45 trillion karbovantsy next year," and the leaders of the Crimean Tatars assess the prospects of this assistance very pessimistically since they do not believe that Kiev has a well-considered program for social aid to Crimean Tatars. "New people are always coming to power in Kiev, and by the time they straighten things out, their term of office is ended"—this opinion was expressed by the chairman of the Majlis faction in the parliament of Crimea, Refat Chubarov.

Why At This Particular Time?

A key question in politics—the circumstances under which political decisions are made—plays a considerable role in the analysis of recent events surrounding Crimea as well. Actually, one might have expected certain radical actions on the part of the Supreme Council of Ukraine regarding Crimea back on 17 November 1994, when the Crimean authorities were so demoralized that the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, Sergey Tsekov, had to resign and the Supreme Council of Crimea was on the verge of disbanding itself. But the critical situation normalized with unexpected ease and the Supreme Council of Ukraine limited itself to a mild instruction to bring the Constitution and laws of Crimea into compliance with the Constitution and laws of Ukraine. The chairman of the temporary group of the Ukrainian parliament for studying the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, A. Karmazin, noted that at that time the necessary conditions for harsher actions had not yet developed.

As it turned out later, there was no reason to expect complications in Crimea. No more than 200 rally activists went out to protest the annulment of the labor contract of the president "elected by all Crimea" himself. The Crimeans turned out to be indifferent to the fate of the local power, which has also been shown by sociological polls, especially over the past several months. In view of this and the location of a limited contingent of Ukrainian police and special supervisors on the peninsula, the Crimean parliament and president would most likely be forced to obey the central authority of Ukraine.

The struggle of the Crimean separatists for independence is greatly complicated by the fact that Crimea is almost completely independent of financing from Kiev. Although Russia morally supports the Crimean authority, for two years now it has refused to pay even the rent for the land occupied by Russian military units. Consequently, the Crimean parliament can only threaten to conduct a referendum regarding Crimea's independence, but in fact does not have the means to carry out this threat. The level of separatism on the peninsula, of course, is decreasing significantly, and all Kiev has to do is temporarily suspend financing for Crimea. The Ukrainian capital is successfully utilizing this.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Incidentally, the parliamentary hearings on Crimea on 17 March, which were fatal for the Crimean authorities, formally provoked the Crimeans themselves, although they requested 94 billion karbovantsy for elections to local councils on 29 April. Of course the members of the Ukrainian parliament could not tolerate this kind of impudence. Moreover, it turned out that far from everyone is ready to go to the elections in Crimea. The popularity of the Russia bloc has declined a great deal recently. On the one hand, neither Yu. Meshkov nor the pro-Russian members of parliament improved the life of the Crimeans when they came to power, and they did not fulfill their promises to grant pensions and wages in Russian rubles. On the other hand, the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, Sergey Tsekov, and President Yuriy Meshkov have also quarreled among themselves and split the parliamentary faction of the Russia bloc into two hostile groups, which have sullied one another in the eyes of the voters. During the recent repeat elections of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea they were forced to unite by a threat from Kiev, because of which Tsekov was able to gain the post of speaker again, but, as the deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, Klychnikov, asserts, this bloc will not last long. Yu. Meshkov's resignation and the complete failure of S. Tsekov's diplomacy in Kiev at the meeting of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 17 March pours oil on a fire which had already almost been started by the Russia bloc. All they had to do was give the members of parliament and the president of Crimea an opportunity to speak to the people more frequently and they would discredit themselves. The population no longer thinks absolutely unequivocally that becoming a part of Russia could solve all the economic problems. It is not surprising that only 17 percent of the residents of Crimea are now unconditionally striving for independence and 37 percent no longer think that autonomy is mandatory.

The Russia bloc was not even in a condition to affirm its own effective executive power. The Saburov government it created fairly quickly showed its inability to do anything with the Crimean economy and fell, obviously, not without help from local business structures who see in the Russians more competitors than liberators from the Ukrainian yoke. The government of the current head of the Crimean executive power, Anatoliy Franchuk, is exactly the same as it was before the victory of the Russia bloc in the elections to the Supreme Council of Crimea—a government of the former Crimean party nomenklatura and local businessmen. The only thing that excites them much is the possibility of operating independently in the economic area, particularly, single-handedly conducting privatization of Crimean property. In this they are much greater separatists than the pro-Russian forces. They do not need unification with Russia and are absolutely pleased with autonomy as part of Ukraine as long as the latter will grant them a certain amount of economic independence.

After defeat in the parliamentary elections, this unofficial bloc is again seizing power. Its "tragedy" is that it wins apparatus battles but regularly loses elections and has no support among the population. This bloc now has an advantage in the local councils and does not want repeat elections because it is afraid of defeat. The radical actions of the Ukrainian parliament are helping it to establish itself. It is no secret that A. Franchuk's government was threatened by the possible resignation during the hearings in the Supreme Council of Crimea of the government report that was planned for 22-24 March. As far as we know, after 17 March nobody mentioned the report in parliament again.

The Ukrainian authorities are also showing a greater confidence in the government than in other power structures of the autonomous entity. During the recent crisis of the Supreme Council of Crimea, in Kiev they spread the idea of the direct subordination of the Crimean Government to the president or Government of Ukraine. The new law on the Autonomous Republic of Crimea envisions the possibility of dissolution of the Supreme Council of Crimea by the parliament of Ukraine in the event that the latter violates the laws of Ukraine. In this case, until such time as a new Supreme Council of Crimea is convened, state power in Crimea, of course, will be wielded by the Government of Crimea. Thus the latter would gradually turn into a power that is independent of and considerably stronger than parliament.

True, the stick that beat Yu. Meshkov and the parliament of Crimea hit the government as well. It will have to abandon, at least temporarily, its dream of receiving from the Supreme Council of Ukraine a law on delimitation of authority between Ukraine and Crimea. Surprisingly, the Supreme Council of Ukraine did not again attack its traditional target. After all, as S. Tsekov correctly emphasized, it was the Ukrainian parliament that approved legislation that made it possible for the Republic of Crimea to exist. With each law it adopted, the Supreme Council of Ukraine made the problem of Crimea worse and worse. The law on delimitation of authority was to have been the next step in the reinforcement of Crimean sovereignty. It would not be a great exaggeration to say that after 17 March, when the Supreme Council of Ukraine proclaimed the inexpediency of signing the law on delimitation of authority between Ukraine and Crimea, the Crimean power lost the legal base for its "spontaneous" demands and ended up in the position where it was at the very beginning of its struggle for autonomy.

The Crimean authorities will have to begin many things from the beginning. But above all it will have to gain the confidence of the voters again. Probably only the Communist Party of Crimea can now hope for victory in the elections. It is instructive that representatives of Crimea in the Ukrainian parliament are mainly communists. Ultimately, however, the Crimeans will receive their wages in rubles or karbovantsy as long as there is enough. This is what the communists are promising, and they are not very interested in friendship with Russia.

According to certain information, Kiev's position—"to act and immediately"—was fully formulated right after

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the adoption of the Crimean Supreme Council of the decision on the report of A. Franchuk's government. The latest discussion by the Supreme Council of Ukraine of the problem of the subordination of the government of Crimea directly to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine ended with an announcement by A. Moroz of the corresponding edict of President L. Kuchma, which also realizes this idea, shows that Kiev correctly calculated its decisions, taking into account the complete disenchantment of the Crimeans with their own leadership and looking to the future—to 1996—when the Crimean subject could be central in the presidential elections in Russia. [passage omitted]

Crimea Measures Analyzed

954K0540A Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 21 Mar 95 p 1

[Article by Oleh Olenyuk and Serhiy Pavliv: "To Kill the Gryphon. The Bomb that Meshkov and Tsekov Planted Under the Government of Crimea Exploded Under the Constitution and the President of the Peninsula"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Friday the Supreme Council of Ukraine voted 316 "for" (with nine "against") to abolish the office of the president of Crimea as such and drew a heavy black line across the autonomy's constitution. The [Ukrainian] parliament had long ago decided to put the meeting leaders of the peninsula, who in time had also become the leaders of local government bodies, "in their place," but for various reasons had delayed doing so. Following the summer-fall "skirmish" between the president of Crimea and its parliament, the levers of power had de facto passed into the hands of the latter body. On the submission of the Supreme Council of Crimea, a government was formed on the peninsula headed by Anatoliy Franchuk, Leonid Kuchma's relative by marriage, and Yuriy Meshkov was left with a shred of power over his own security guards and the camp of female pensioners who support him. But even in these circumstances the Ukrainian parliament had to take decisive action (symbolically, the Supreme Council took this action precisely at the time when the principal initiator in aggravating the Crimean problem—Russia—had conducted yet another lobbying maneuver with respect to the wide-ranging agreement on friendship, cooperation, and partnership with Ukraine).

It was not difficult to predict the direction that the debate on the Crimean question would take. Deputies to the Ukrainian parliament could not permit Crimean separatism—because of their own status, as well as because of the powers that separatism would grant. Also owing to certain political nuances and collisions: The rightists cannot permit the notion of separatism per se to exist in Ukraine; the bureaucratic centrists are unwilling to give up control over territory because they want to strengthen their own economic power; the liberal centrists are inclined to allow federalism, but only to the extent that it does not go beyond economic activity; and the Ukrainian leftists no longer support the Crimean politicians (following Leonid Drach's announcement of his intention to leave the Communist Party of Ukraine taking the Communist Party of Crimea with him). The rightists were bent on abolishing Crimean autonomy altogether, bringing criminal charges against Meshkov, and dissolving the Supreme Council of the peninsula. The blame for the whole situation was laid at the door of the obvious parties—Leonid Kravchuk and the old Communist majority. Fortunately, Oleksandr Moroz and Leonid Kuchma saved the day from unforeseeable consequences by immediately defusing the tension and prompting the deputies to support the drafts of the decisions of the Commission on Legal Policy and Judicial Reform and of the temporary deputies' Commission To Study the Political and Legal Situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

In accordance with the law on the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the relevant decrees that were adopted by the Supreme Council of Ukraine, Ukraine's only autonomy is an integral part of a unitary Ukrainian state, and the only constitution in force on its territory until the parliament of our state ratifies the constitution of the republic is the Constitution of Ukraine. The state symbols in force in Crimea (emblem, anthem, and flag) are those of Ukraine, but the peninsula has the right to have its own parallel symbols, which the Supreme Council of Ukraine will approve in a section of the Fundamental Law and which will be used side by side with the state symbols of Ukraine. (In this way the hated gryphon on the peninsula's emblem had his wings clipped.) The guarantor of the status of the republic of Crimea is the Ukrainian state, and the peninsula's only plenipotentiary body is the Supreme Council of Crimea, which will function until new elections are held, which are scheduled for 29 April. These elections will be conducted in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine on the election of local self-government organs. Today, the Ukrainian parliament is to amend that section of the constitution of the state that deals with issues that pertain to Crimea.

Obviously, Crimean leaders are not happy with the decision made by Ukraine's parliamentarians. Serhiy Tsekov and his deputies have decided to fight for the constitution to the end, and he called on Russia to put pressure on Ukraine regarding its solution of the Crimean question in the discussion of the wide-ranging agreement on friendship, cooperation, and partnership.

However, the only ones in Crimea to attribute great significance to the fact that official Kiev spoke out in the firm voice of the master were the politicians. Life in Simferopol goes on as usual, and only elderly ladies "invigorated by the spring to greater activity" periodically call Yuriy Meshkov out of the building of the Supreme Council "for an encore." The now former president of Crimea, having attended a session of parliament for the last time despite it being night, does not leave his office. But his security guards have already surrendered their weapons and are waiting for a new

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

assignment. Yuriy Meshkov's telephones have also been disconnected. The ex-president is continuing to describe Kiev's decision as hysteria and to claim that Ukraine's organs of state authority are entirely responsible for destabilizing the situation in Crimea. But inasmuch as there is no evidence of destabilization, these claims sound more and more hollow with each passing day. The deputies have also split in their opinions, with rather harsh, if not militant, expressions against Kiev prevailing. After returning from Kiev, Serhiy Tsekov announced that only a sick mind could have come up with the kind of decisions that Kiev made. But Deputies Mykhaylo Bakharyev and Nadir Bekirov, for example, support the decision of the parliament of Ukraine. As Nadir Bekirov, the head of the political and legal department of Mejiles, has stated, Ukraine chose the correct path. The decisions adopted are very moderate and constructive. It is senseless for the Supreme Council of Crimea to appeal to people's instincts in order to incite them to destructive actions.

National TV, Radio Council Opens Crimean Office

954F2007B Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 2

[Interview with Anatoliy Sivachenko, Ukrainian National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council representative in Crimea, by KRYMSKAYA GAZETA correspondent Valentine Selivanova; place and date not given: "Imposing Order on the Airwaves"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The Ukrainian National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council has opened a representation in Crimea, headed by A.V. Sivachenko. Our correspondent asked Anatoliy Vladimirovich to describe the representation's functions and what tasks it needs to deal with in the nearest future.**

[Sivachenko] Over the past few years dozens of large and small television and radio studios and companies have sprung up on our peninsula. Some of them have registered but never actually commenced operations. But there are also quite a few companies, including some that are state-owned, that regularly broadcast without actually having a license. The Ukrainian law "On Television and Radio Broadcasting," adopted in December 1993, set up the Ukrainian National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council. Its tasks include coordinating the development of an integrated concept of developing the television and radio space of Ukraine and participating in its implementation. Among the council's duties is issuing, on a bidding basis, licenses to television and radio organizations for the right to use broadcasting channels and time, monitor compliance with the law in the area of television and radio broadcasting, and rational use of broadcast frequencies. In short, the council's task is to establish order, for instance, in broadcasting, including issuance of licenses.

[Selivanova] What does a radio and television organization need to obtain a license?

[Sivachenko] Regardless of the kind of broadcasting—air, cable, wire, or mixed—and whether it is a state-owned, commercial, private, or mixed-ownership television and radio organization, it must submit to the National Council an application and a number of documents enumerated in Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Ukrainian law "On Television and Radio Broadcasting."

The head of the television and radio organization or its founder sends these documents to Kiev, to the National Council, and waits for a decision on their fate. This is the way it used to be. Now, in order to speed up this process, the National Council has set up representations in Ukrainian regions. In Crimea, including Sevastopol, the representation currently does all the preliminary work, including drafting a decision for the National Council. If the decision is made to issue the license, the council's representative delivers it right here, in Crimea.

[Selivanova] And this is all the procedure of issuing a license involves?

[Sivachenko] This is what is required by law. Issuing licenses, however, is a delicate matter—it is practically a decision giving a collective the right to life. Because, as a rule, the founder has already invested considerable money: purchased equipment (mainly imported), transmitters, recruited creative and technical staff, and is counting on not being denied a license. Anything can happen, though... Therefore, in order to avoid mistakes and subjective decisions, I believe that the representation should have a public council attached to it. The fate of a collective should be decided collectively, not by one person.

A very important task for the public council (I think it will be set up very soon) is to devise the concept of development of television and radio broadcasting in Crimea. To accomplish this, of course, we need to inventory used and unused frequencies, that is, determine the frequency pool Crimea has at its disposal. The frequency range is the national property of every state, just like, for instance, natural resources. For starters, we need to simply analyze who broadcasts where, when, and on what frequency...

[Selivanova] The National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council has been granted considerable rights, including oversight. Does this not equate to imposing censorship?

[Sivachenko] No, it does not. Article 6 of the Ukrainian law "On Television and Radio Broadcasting" categorically prohibits political and ideological censorship no matter where it comes from: the state, administrative organs, parties, or individuals. But... after all, let us be frank—we strive not to comply with laws but look for ways to get around them. Remember how last year during the presidential elections in Ukraine a major television organization in Kiev gave air time to presidential contender L. Kuchma? His rival in the elections, L. Kravchuk, did not like it. And the National Council stripped this television

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

company of its license... The National Council's members have now been replaced, though.

[Selivanova] Are you sure that everybody associated with television and radio broadcasting is familiar with the Ukrainian law "On Television and Radio Broadcasting"?

[Sivachenko] They have to be, but there is no certainty in this respect. Therefore I propose to hold a hands-on seminar for all heads of Crimean television and radio organizations. High-ranking officials from the National Council and the president of Ukraine's press service will take part in it. So one will be able to get firsthand answers to all questions (of which, I am sure, there will be many). I hope that our republic's television and radio broadcasting community will also come up with its own proposals. By the way, in connection with fast development of television and radio broadcasting in Crimea, the number of people who have devoted themselves to this endeavor has increased dramatically. It is probably time to create a public organization or professional union of television and radio broadcasting professionals on the peninsula. You have to take care of yourself and defend your interests. We can raise and make decisions on these issues at the seminar. Meanwhile, if they arise, you should contact the National Council representation in Simferopol, telephone number 292-373. We are awaiting your calls.

Economic Issues

Resolution on State Budget Passed, Recommendations Made

LD0704215395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The Supreme Council of Ukraine today passed the resolution "On bringing into effect the law of Ukraine 'On the state budget of Ukraine for 1995'" by a majority of 256 to five votes and five abstentions.

Under the resolution, the state budget indexes are subject to reapproval by the Supreme Council on the results of the budget performance after every quarter of this year, and on the 20th day of the month following that [sentence as received]

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers was told that, when putting forward proposals on changes to legislation on welfare issues, it is impermissible to disregard the possible worsening in the living standards of the invalids, pensioners, and children. It was recommended that a mechanism should be drawn up and a decision made by 15 May, to replace concessions to the population in payment for electricity and travel in city passenger transport, with subsidies in the form of pinpoint assistance to the underprivileged. In connection with this, the government was instructed to compile a register of the underprivileged.

To form a balanced budget, to enhance budget revenue, and to harmonize legislation with the state's financial possibilities, the government is to make respective amendments in the laws and, in particular, to revise excise duties applied to imports; to bring in import duties on coal and goods qualified as nonessential imports, and deposits in the transit of imports across the territory of Ukraine; to reconsider the size of taxation rates in barter operations; to raise the revenue generated from the sale of facilities still under construction; to precisely calculate proceeds from privatization and from the lease of state companies and nonresidential property; to make an inventory of all credits and concessions granted earlier from the budget as bank loans; and to withdraw concessions held by corporate bodies in the form of exemption from tax or cut rates of value-added tax, excise, customs, and import duties.

It was also recommended that Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers should make provision for and put forward legislative proposals on the transfer of ministries, departments, and other executive authorities to funding from the revenue generated by financially independent businesses and organizations in their jurisdiction, regardless of the latter's form of ownership.

The Supreme Council Labor and Social Policy Committee together with the government were instructed to present for parliamentary consideration an agreed draft to set the poverty line in Ukraine.

The resolution prohibited state executive authorities from redistributing the state budget appropriations.

The Supreme Council session ruled that, on submission from the Supreme Council Budget Committee and the government, next week will be given to deliberations on proposed VAT changes.

Government To Postpone Chernobyl AES Closure

LD1004193595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1750 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The government of Ukraine is preparing a statement concerning further operation of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The problem was discussed at a special cabinet meeting on 10 April. The draft version of the statement says that an immediate closure of the station would incur an economic loss equal to $4 billion and would be unfeasible without a special fund set up for the purpose.

The government will propose leaving the plant in operation for a certain period of time since Ukraine is unable to phase it out in the immediate future. Until the closure, all profits from the station's output will go to the fund for the closure of Chernobyl AES.

Prior to decommissioning the station, the government will work to stabilize Ukraine's energy supply system, build reservoirs for used nuclear fuel, and improve the sarcophagus over the crippled fourth reactor to make it an environmentally safe facility. Measures to ensure social protection of the station staff will also be taken.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

One of the ways to provide a comprehensive solution to the Chernobyl problems would be to set up an international research center for the elimination of the aftermath of nuclear accidents. The president of Ukraine is to issue a decree to this effect.

During the coming month, the government will draft proposals for the G-7 countries on ways to substitute for Chernobyl's power-generating capacity.

Priority Areas in Administering Foreign Loans Approved

LD0804214195 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has approved the priority areas in administering foreign loans to be borrowed under the guarantees or any other obligations of the Ukrainian Government. These are energy- and resources-saving production methods, agro-industrial complex, ferrous metallurgy, fuel and power engineering complex, medical and microbiological industries, aircraft-, ship-, rocket-, and car-building, infrastructure: transport, communications, etc., as well as separate important projects.

Foreign loans to be borrowed by Ukraine's legal entities under the guarantees or any other obligations of the government, will be repaid on currency self-recoupment terms.

Aluminum Industry, German Investment Plans Viewed

WS0704143695 Kiev URYADOVVY KURYER in Ukrainian 4 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by L. Samsonenko; "Will Ukraine Have Aluminum?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of 1993, the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers approved a state program for the development of aluminum production by the year 2005. The program envisions that production will increase to 500,000 metric tons annually, of which primary aluminum would account for 400,000 metric tons.

Unfortunately, due to economic hardships and skyrocketing inflation, this program remains nothing more than a piece of paper. To understand other reasons, we should step back somewhat into the past. Under the Soviet Union, aluminum production in Ukraine fitted into the technological chain of the superpower, and was set up to meet the needs of the USSR. Ukraine's specialty was the production of alumina at the Mykolayiv alumina plant, and aluminum ingots and mill products at the Brovary aluminum construction plant and the Zaporizhzhya aluminum amalgamation. Ukraine never had a complete production cycle due to the lack of industrial bauxite deposits in the country.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the country's production and trade links have been disrupted, resulting in unstable deliveries. In addition, prices for similar aluminum products made in Russia sometimes exceed international levels. All this at a time when the world's aluminum markets are very demanding and have already reached the point of saturation and overproduction. Being a little anxious, aluminum tycoons throughout the world are expecting to see Ukrainian aluminum appear at the foreign metal exchanges. However, after a careful study into the possibility of accomplishing the Ukrainian state program of aluminum production, they see here a primarily a huge, undeveloped market. Their experts estimated that Ukraine will need approximately $3 billion to implement this program—a sum that neither the state budget nor enterprises can provide. Such funds can only be obtained through foreign investments.

This opinion has been confirmed at the exhibition "Modern House" that opened at the Ukrainian Commerce and Trade Chamber on 28 March. Dozens of national and foreign companies offered there both high-quality construction materials, and entire life-size standard houses. Let me tell you frankly: It was not a pretty sight for people with average incomes.

Ukraine's "aluminum suffering" came to mind near a stand of the Ukrainian-German joint venture "Infut," the official representative of the internationally-renowned company ALCOA—one of the world's leading manufacturers of aluminum alloys, semifinished products, etc. Operating a highly developed network of plants in European countries, the company offers through its representative a wide range of hot and cold-rolled strips, plates, sheets, discs, aluminum-plate floors with stamped ornaments, and industrial and consumer foil. Most impressive were the construction contours and structures made of aluminum, including stained-glass windows, doors, etc. Their design and high quality are supported by moderate prices.

The reason for that, said Ihor Kudinov, managing director of the Ukrainian-German joint venture "Infut," is that ALCOA sees Ukraine as a huge, unsaturated market. The company understands, however, that you have to fight for attractive markets—mainly, with a wide offer, high quality, and low prices. While ALCOA's prime strategy today is sales, the company, after a thorough study of the national market, intends to invest in the Ukrainian economy, and provide other types of financial and technological assistance, thus promoting the country's integration with the international economic community.

Privatization of Municipal Property in Kharkov Detailed

WS1004091295 Kharkov SLOBIDSKYY KRAY in Ukrainian 1 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by M. Khablak: "What About Municipal Property?"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 1,500 enterprises of transport, construction, communication, the production sector, education, culture, health care, sports, trade, and so on, were registered as municipal property belonging to the Kharkov City Council during the division of state property. More than 200 facilities were then transferred under the jurisdiction of the lowest-level councils. Some 1,109 enterprises, with a balance sheet value (in 1994 prices without indexation) of 581 billion karbovantsi, are currently registered as part of the oblast's municipal property. More than half of those enterprises—around 200 of the municipal-housing and communications sectors,and the Oblast Gasoline Stations Administration, which are not subject to privatization—may be privatized in the future.

L. Alekseyeva, chief of the Oblast Municipal Property Fund [OMPF], stressed at a joint conference of the City Council Commissions for Planning, Budget, and Finance; Legality and Order; and for Servicemen's Issues, that 68 enterprises have recently been privatized and 393 facilities are subject to privatization.

As we know, it was decided to compile an inventory of the first 141 facilities and submit it for approval at the Oblast Council's third session. It was then learned that the issue needs to be scrupulously discussed by the permanent commissions.

The commissions have started to discuss the issue.

V. Potapov, chief of the Commission for Planning, Budget, and Finance, pointed out that difficulties in privatizing a number of facilities lie in the fact that a considerable part of their stock belongs to their employees. Those facilities were created in the past as inter-kolkhoz, inter-rayon institutions, and the like, and then, became state-run enterprises. We should not forget however, that the goal of privatization is to improve the functioning of enterprises and industries. To my regret, things very often get complicated after privatization. This has happened to food service in schools and hospitals. V. Potapov said that we have to create appropriate structures in this sector. A similar situation may develop with supplies of medicine for hospitals.

A heated discussion was held on the expediency of privatizing pharmacies. The situation gets complicated by the fact that a considerable number of them are being leased and bought out and, according to the presidential edict, they should be completely privatized by 1 July 1995. Given the fact, however, that the issue of privatizing pharmacies is currently being discussed at the Supreme Council, these facilities were not on the list of businesses earmarked for privatization in 1995.

Certain commission members uphold their position that privatization of pharmacies should be prohibited altogether. Finally however, it was decided that this issue should be determined directly by rayons, with their recommendations being forwarded to the OMPF.

The deputies also agreed that the expediency of privatizing mobile mechanical columns [persuuna mekhanizovana kolona], construction, and other enterprises, which in the past were created as collective or inter-institutional bodies, has to be decided by the lowest level councils, along with the OMPF.

The specific issues of privatizing these or those facilities will be thoroughly addressed by specialized committees. This should not, however, be postponed any longer. The point is that three months of 1995 have already passed and a program for privatization in 1995 has not yet been approved. All this hinders the process of reform. dd

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Belarus

Lukashenka: Investment Funds Damage State Interests

LD1004115695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, April 10 (Interfax-West)—President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus has said that the country's investment funds, which are operating with privatization vouchers, "have entered the path of damaging state interests." Speaking on Sunday on the republic's television, he said that this had caused his decree of last week suspending the activities of the investment funds, which are accumulating inscribed vouchers.

According to him, the republic's prosecutor's office submitted to him the results of the funds' inspection. The inspectors found violations of the law in them beginning from the moment of their registration, said the president.

Hryb: NATO Expansion Would Lead to Russia-Led 'Alternative'

WS1104112295 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb thinks that there is no urgent need for former socialist bloc countries to join NATO. At a news conference in Minsk, he explained his point of view by citing the fact that the Warsaw Pact no longer exists and the Cold War is over. Any initiative on the part of Poland and the Baltic republics to become members of the North Atlantic alliance will in any event push other East European countries, headed by the Russian Federation, toward creating an alternative military union, the Belarusian parliamentary speaker warned.

Prime Minister Admits 'Differences' With IMF

LD1004115095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, April 10 (Interfax-West)—The Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir has admitted the existence of differences between his cabinet and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in their assessment of the economic situation in Belarus. He said on local television Sunday that the IMF disapproves of the doubling of the minimum wage from 30,000 to 60,000 rubles (from $3 to $6) and the rise in the discount rate of the National Bank on March 1.

Chyhir was sure that the government moves will not spur inflation, the weekly rate of which in April has been around 3 percent.

"The IMF doubts are groundless and life will show which side is right", he said.

Chyhir was sure that the performance of the Belarusian cabinet will make the IMF change its mind and return to the issue of offering Belarus the second part of the $200 million loan.

Chyhir Confident of Agreement

LD1004174095 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir admitted that the government and the IMF have different views about the republic's economic situation. He remarked that the IMF disapproved of the Belarusian leadership's actions which had doubled the minimum wages and had raised the National Bank's interest rate. He is confident that the IMF will reconsider its position and will return to the issue of giving Belarus the second part of the &200 million credit.

Chyhir Favors End to Border Restrictions With Russia

LD1004115595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, April 10 (INTERFAX)—Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir thinks that Belarus should lift the customs barrier on its border with Russia by May 9, 1995. Making a TV address on Sunday, Chyhir noted that the solution to this problem is being hampered only by parliament, whose deputies differ in their opinion on the customs agreement.

Some deputies think that the agreement should be ratified, others are confident of the need to ratify only the bilateral treaty on friendship, good-neighborliness and cooperation, said Chyhir.

Supreme Soviet Session Resumes; Referendum on Agenda

LD1004131195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After a two-week break the Belarusian Supreme Soviet session resumed in Minsk today. Probably the main point on the agenda will be the issue of holding a republic-wide referendum. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent L. Sviridov—identified by caption] The first stage of the election campaign has officially ended in Belarus - nomination of candidates to the Supreme Soviet. [passage omitted]

One interesting feature is that if any candidate suddenly appears on Russian TV—our channel is broadcast in Belarus—the constituency electoral commission could view this as a violation by the candidate of the principle

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of equal fairness. "Vesti", naturally, would not be punished for this, but the candidate's registration could be declared null and void for the violation.

Party Voices Support for President's Proposed Referendum

WS1004144595 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1200 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republican Council of the Movement for Democracy, Social Progress and Justice (DSPJ) has backed up the initiative of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka for the simultaneous holding of elections to the Supreme Soviet and a nationwide referendum on May 14. In the corresponding statement, the DSPJ leaders emphasize that besides state bilingualism and national symbols, the topics of the referendum should be a state union with Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union and the abolition of privatisation. The DSPJ has declared its readiness to take part in the elaboration of specific wordings of the questions which will be put to the referendum, as well as to organise a collection of signatures for the holding of the referendum if the Supreme Soviet refuses it.

Supreme Soviet Resumes 10 Apr, Rejects Prosecutor's Bid

WS1104084295 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Soviet of Belarus resumed its work yesterday by discussing personnel issues and relieving eight more deputies of their legislative duties. In this way, deputy mandates were revoked from [Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman] Vyachaslaw Kuznyatsow, Alyaksandr Herasimenka, and Mikalay Hrynyow, who have been appointed ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary to China, Bulgaria, and Moldova respectively. Also leaving parliament were Vasil Dawhalyow, Viktar Kuchynski, Uladzimir Shawtsow, and Leanid Syachko, who now work in the presidential administration. One more parliamentarian, Valeriy Pitsukha, left to become head of the Stolin Rayon Executive Committee. Following this successive wave of departures, there are 303 deputies remaining in the Supreme Soviet.

The Supreme Soviet of Belarus did not support an initiative by Prosecutor General Vasil Shaladonaw to institute criminal proceedings against Deputy Ihar Hermyanchuk [SVABODA editor in chief], who published poems in SVABODA written by Vyadzmak Lysahorski entitled "Luka Mudzishchaw Is President" and "Luka Mudzishchaw Answers to Vyadzmak Lysahorski." The parliament did not even include this issue on its agenda.

Deputies Propose 'Alternative Questions' for Referendum

WS1104090695 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0732 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 134 MPs of the Supreme Soviet (a minimum of 70 are necessary) have signed the proposal to include alternative questions in the nationwide referendum initiated by President Lukashenka. According to information received, the alternative questions are worded as follows:

1. Do you agree with Article 17 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, which is stated in the following wording: "The Belarusian language is the state language of the Republic of Belarus. The Republic of Belarus guarantees the right of free use of the Russian language as a language of interethnic communication"?

2. Do you agree with the current state symbols of the Republic of Belarus (white-red-white flag, the coat of arms "Pahonya")?

3. Are you content with the President of Belarus A. Lukashenka's fulfillment of his preelection programme in the field of economics, social protection of citizens, and the struggle against corruption?

The chairman of the parliamentary committee for state construction Uladzimir Lewchyk holds that the Supreme Soviet must consider the President's questions together with those of MPs because the initiative of the latter has assumed legal force.

Deputies Debate Proposed Referendum, Set Date of 14 May

WS1104105495 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Video report by N. Martsaleva]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following a short break, the Supreme Soviet session has resumed its proceedings. As was expected, the holding of a referendum became the main issue on today's agenda. It should be noted that this issue is perceived unequivocally by both the highest legislative body and society as a whole. A number of deputies resolutely adopted the president's position. However, many deputies not only criticized the formulation of questions on the referendum, but also rejected the very idea of holding one. The president of our Republic, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, assessed this situation in the following way.

[Begin recording] [Lukashenka, in Russian] The president's initiative to hold referendum, since the first day of its announcement, has become the center of attention of the politically active segment of society. The card of the referendum has been played recklessly by most of the various political forces. Alas, this was primarily done by them to only remind the electorate once again of their existence, to publicly demonstrate—while not having their own large-scale state ideas—at least the independence of somebody else's ideas. One has to conclude with bitterness that also some of those sitting in this hall are trying to score political points by using the referendum issue to their advantage. [end recording]

However, despite heated debate, the parliamentarians were unable today to make a final decision on the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

referendum. They only adopted a draft basis for an appropriate resolution and finally authorized the date of the referendum as 14 May. [passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet Prolongs Issue of Privatization Vouchers

WS1104090595 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0732 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On April 10 the Supreme Soviet passed a resolution for the prolongation of the period of issue and circulation of inscribed privatisation cheques (IPCs). In the opinion of the parliamentary committee for economic reform and the achievement of economic independence and sovereignty of the Republic, taking the current pace of issue of IPCs into consideration people will not be able to receive them before July 1, 1995. That is why it was decided to prolong the period of their issue till January 1 1996, the period of circulation till July 1 1999, and the period of cancellation till July 1 2000.

In case of the death of a citizen during the period of IPC issue, the cheques will be given to his heir.

Deputies Approve 'Only' 1 Question for 14 May Referendum

WS1104112195 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Belarusian Supreme Soviet is continuing its work in Minsk today. As is tradition, today's session began with the miscellaneous portion of the agenda. Eight deputies shared their opinions on current economic and political problems.

Following this, the parliamentarians resumed their discussion of the issue of the referendum. As is known, they resolved yesterday to hold the referendum on 14 May. Today, at their morning session, the parliamentarians discussed the questions proposed for the referendum by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. We will recall that these questions pertain to language, a new Belarusian flag and coat of arms, relations with Russia, and providing the president with the right to dissolve the Supreme Soviet. A very heated debate took place over these questions. President Alyaksandr Lukashenka took the floor several times. After a vote, the deputies only agreed to submit one question for the referendum—the integration of Belarus with Russia. In his concluding speech at the Supreme Soviet session, Alyaksandr Lukashenka affirmed his resolution to hold a referendum on all four questions. This right is granted to him by the Constitution of the Republic.

A detailed report on the work of the Supreme Soviet session will be relayed during our evening news program "Post Factum."

People's Front To Celebrate WWII Victory

LD1004135995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Klyuchnikova for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk April 10 TASS—As it became known on Monday, the Belarusian People's Front decided to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War outside official functions planned on the scale of the Belarusian capital. Belarusian people's writer Vasil Bykov told reporters that the victory is the common cause of the entire world democratic public, the Belarusian people, not only the former Soviet people. "We wish to regard this event in the light of the victory of all democratic antifascist forces", Bykov said. "Our opponents, probably, will not agree to this, as they did not agree last time, when Belarusia's liberation was celebrated".

Bykov expects democratic and national forces of the republic and democratic organisations of war veterans to rally under the Belarusian state flags and flags of antifascist forces of countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, not under "imperial red flags prepared by the pro-communist forces".

Free Trade Union To Protest 'Flagrant Violations' 18 Apr

WS1104090495 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0732 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Free Trade Union plans to arrange a mass meeting of protest on Freedom Square on April 18, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. [1400-1900 GMT]. As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed at the press-office of the Free Trade Union, the action will be held in response to flagrant violations of the law on trade unions by the government and in view of the fact that the General Agreement between the government, trade unions and the associations of employers still remains unsigned.

The application of the organising committee has already been sent in to the Minsk-City executive committee. The organisers suppose that the protest rally will be attended by 25 thousand people.

Moldova

Foreign Minister Says China Foreign Policy Priority

LD1004211495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 10 (Interfax)—China is a priority of the Moldovan foreign policy, Moldovan Foreign Minister Mihai Popov said in Chisinau on Monday.

In his words, Chisinau views China as certain gates to the East. That is why Moldova will soon open its first Asian embassy in Beijing.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Speaking of results of the Moldovan visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen that completed last Thursday, Popov noted that the negotiations resulted in signing of only one document—a program on the implementation of the bilateral agreement on cultural exchanges.

"The visit aimed to expand relations and specify stands of both sides on the implementation of bilateral agreements. This task was fulfilled," stressed Popov.

He also said that the Chinese visit of Moldovan parliament Speaker Petr Luchinskiy is scheduled for September 1995. "This will be the second visit of a Moldovan official delegation to Beijing since the time the Moldovan republic proclaimed its independence. In 1992 China was visited by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, and that visit resulted in signing of 13 bilateral documents," said Popov.

In the words of the minister "these documents cut the distance between the two states which is the only problem of Moldovan-Chinese relations."

Popov Says Cooperation With OSCE Main Priority of Policy

LD0904180395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 7 (Interfax)—Moldova is extremely interested in cooperating with the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] which is one of the priorities in the Moldovan foreign policy, Moldovan Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov told Interfax in an interview today.

He said that if the conflict in the Transdnestr [Dniester] Region was settled the OSCE would be the main guarantor for the tragedy of 1992 never to be repeated.

Popov said he was glad that the mandate of the OSCE permanent mission in Moldova which ought to have expired in 1994, had been extended for another year. He said the OSCE mission had prepared about 30 reports on the situation in the republic. He said that the talks on settlement of the conflict in the Transdnestr Region were based on the 13th report of the OSCE mission. Popov said the report fixed the basic formulas for settling the conflict within single Moldova and granting to the Transdnestr Region the wide rights of an autonomy.

Gagauz Parliament Session Postponed Due to Lack of Quorum

AU0804181695 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1954 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Comrat, INFOTAG, 7/4/1995—The session of the Gagauz Parliament scheduled for last Thursday failed to take place due to lack of quorum. Only 16 deputies out of 46 arrived in Comrat, so the session was postponed till Monday [10 April], INFOTAG was told by Vasily Neikovchen, press secretary. The session was supposed to consider conducting the Moldovan local elections on April 16 in Gagauzia. After the territorial unit's borders were delineated, the parliament of the self- proclaimed Gagauzi republic have decided to hold no Moldovan elections on the territory in April, but to postpone them till a later date, so that to conduct them in accordance with new Gagauzi laws yet to adopt.

However, after negotiations with Chisinau, and after the Moldovan Government set a date for electing the Gagauzi Bashkan (Head) and for referendum to determine the capital town of Gagauzia, the Comrat leaders are now more inclined to cancel their own decision on non- conducting the Moldovan local elections on April 16.

The situation has been influenced also by the tougher stance of Chisinau authorities who are being strongly criticized by the opposition for their loyalty towards Gagauzi leaders. Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli stated to Comrat municipal authorities last Wednesday that should there be no local elections in Gagauzia on April 16, all Gagauzi local bodies shall be announced non-valid, with all consequences ensuing therefrom.

In case the Comrat leaders persist in non-conducting the elections, the Gagauzi Status Law may quite be suspended. An intention to forward such an initiative was stated this week by the oldest Moldovan Parliamentarian Artem Lazarev, 85-year-old member of the Socialist Unity Faction.

However, most observers in Comrat believe things will not go that far, and Gagauzia will take part in the April 16 elections. The observers tend to presume that Comrat leaders were, to some extent, blackmailing Chisinau to force the legislature adopt such a Bashkan election procedure which will be advantageous to them. For instance, they succeeded in amending the legislation in such a way that now the post of the Bashkan may only be contested by candidates who have been permanently living in Gagauzia for last five years. Thus, the current Gagauzi leaders, who have begun raising signatures in their own support already, managed to get rid of several strong rivals living in Chisinau.

14th Army Issues Declaration on Shumeyko Statement

AU1104064095 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2045 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 7/4/1995—The statements made by Vladimir Shumeyko, Russian Parliament Upper Chamber chairman, during his visit to Chisinau might tension the socio-political and military situation in the region and reveals an indifferent attitude toward the Russian military and their families, according to a declaration by the 14th Army soldiers made public today in Tiraspol. The 14th Army numbers 10,000 soldiers together with their family members who adopted Russian citizenship. As a result, in case of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russian troops withdrawal not only will the military hardware be pulled out but also lodgings for the military and their family members will have to be provided. The declaration states that Dniester leadership claims a portion of the 14th Army properties, while Shumeyko's statements might cause "forcible seizure of the Army's property." In the military's opinion, the 14th Army withdrawal should be synchronized with the political regulation of the situation in the region. The fate of the 14th Army property seems to be more important to Russian politicians than the fate of thousands of Russian citizens, says the declaration. Shumeyko's statements and Russian observers' participation in the referendum on 14th Army" might tension the situation and even lead to a new military conflict on the Moldovan land that might extend to other European states." The 14th Army commander is currently in Moscow. Sources from the 14th Army command assume that during his meetings with Russian politicians Aleksandr Lebed will try to expound his point of view.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Moscow Decision on 14th Army

LD1004185395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 10 (Interfax)—The Moldovan Foreign Ministry has judged as interference in Moldovan internal affairs the decision of the Russian State Duma (Russian parliament's lower house) to discuss the inadmissibility of the Russian 14th Army's withdrawal from Transdniester.

A statement circulated in Chisinau Monday says that such steps, the same as the recent presence of Duma deputies as observers to the illegal elections of local power bodies and the referendum on the 14th Army's stay in Transdniester organized by the Tiraspol authorities, provoke bewilderment and increasing alarm.

The document stresses that some Duma deputies "are striving to give open support to separatism."

The ministry thinks that propaganda slogans saying Chisinau is planning to settle the Transdniester problem by force are ungrounded.

The ministry confirmed "the political will and determination of the Moldovan leaders to abide by principles of peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Transdniester region of the republic with the mediation of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] permanent mission and the plenipotentiary of the Russian president."

The ministry notes that the republic does not identify the actions of the State Duma with the repeatedly voiced stand of President Boris Yeltsin, the Federation Council (upper house of Russian parliament) and the government which is based on the unconditional recognition of Moldovan territorial integrity.

Composition of Dniester's Illegal Armed Formations Detailed

AU0804183995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1954 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, INFOTAG, 7/4/1995—Illegal armed formations in Dniester are over 5,000 men strong, said the Moldovan Co-Chairman in the Joint Control Commission, First Deputy Interior Minister Victor Katan.

According to his data, the forces include four infantry brigades, an artillery regiment, a tank battalion, an anti-aircraft brigade, a reconnaissance battalion, a communication battalion, Dniester and Delta Battalions, a border guard regiment.

By some rough estimates, they are armed with sixteen T-64 tanks, eighteen 122 mm Howitzers, fifty 120 mm mortars, over 5 thousand guns, and have other armaments.

As INFOTAG came to know from well-informed Dniester sources, the formations are deployed all over the region, including in the security zone. Besides this, a 250 men strong Cossack platoon is stationed in the village of Bychok, a 300 men strong "Krasny vinogradar" (Red vine-grower) unit in the town of Dubasari, and a Cossack squad in Slobozia.

"In defiance of the Moldovan-Russian Agreement of July 21, 1992 on the principles of settling the Dniester conflict, Tiraspol has been introducing its armed formations in the security zone. This upsets the balance of forces in the region, creates a threat to security in the region. We raised the problem many times in the Joint Control Commission. However, Tiraspol representatives would not react to our protests", the Deputy Minister said.

Answering our question, he said that after four battalions of Russian peace keepers left, there remain two more Russian battalions (629 men), three Moldovan (1,000 men) and three Dniestrian battalions (1,000).

"Besides this, in accordance with documents signed later by the sides, there used to be 100 Moldovan policemen and 100 Dniestrian militiamen in the town of Bendery. However, recently the militia increased their contingent two-fold, by having introduced additional traffic control and patrol squads. At the same time, the activities of the Moldovan law-enforcement bodies there is being restricted by local authorities, and in fact the Moldovans operate only in a small district in Benderi and in the suburban village of Varnita", Katan said.

Committee Chairman Suspends Protest Rally Until 4 May

AU1104063695 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2045 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 07.04.1995—Chairman of the Moldovan General Strike

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Committee Anatol Petrencu accompanied by other professors announced the suspension of protest actions at a press conference held today at noon. The leader of the Moldovan Students League Oleg Cernei said in his turn that the high school and university students do not agree with this decision and will continue the strike non-stop on Piata Marii Adunari Nationale. Petrencu told BASAPRESS that "the protest rally will be suspended until May 4, 1995. During this time the Moldovan president will initiate the amendments to some constitutional articles." Also during this period of time, according to Petrencu, the Presidential Commission authorized to negotiate with the strikers will examine the forwarded demands. According to a resolution adopted today, the Strike Committee proposes President Snegur to sign a decree regarding the stopping of all charges brought in court against strikers. Oleg Cernei said that the strike cannot be suspended unless there are legal guarantees as to the meeting of demands and cessation of intimidation of the strikers. According to Cernei, the strikers reacted negatively to the committee's decision to suspend the strike, although this decision was not yet voted for. Asked what are the reasons of the diminishing number of students on the square, Cernei said that this phenomenon is explained by the fact that "only several demands were satisfied, students experience fatigue; and this is also due to certain organizational flaws." Also, Cernei stated that no negotiations will take place with representatives of the government" whom the strikers gave a non-confidence vote, hoping for a new hearing with President Snegur." In the afternoon, the strikers' leaders gave contradictory information regarding consolidation of the Strike Committee and annulment of the decision launched by Anatol Petrencu.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kazakhstan

Tokayev Views Government Delegation's Visit to U.S.

954F2029A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

[Exclusive interview with K. Tokayev, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, by Yuriy Kirinitsiyanov, following the visit of a Kazakhstan Government delegation to America; place and date not given: "Eurasia Plus America Plus..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kirinitsiyanov] Esteemed Kasymzhomart Kemelevich, how might you evaluate the visit to the United States? The point being that the world press has commented quite ambivalently on this trip. Specifically, the newspaper IZVESTIYA announced, not without sarcasm, that the main difficulty of Prime Minister A. Qazhygeldin's partners was the following: finding the Republic of Kazakhstan on the map.

[Tokayev] I believe that this assertion will remain wholly and fully on the conscience of Mr. Nadein, IZVESTIYA correspondent in the United States.

A. Qazhygeldin was received by Vice President A. Gore, Acting Secretary of State S. Talbott, and the president's national security adviser, A. Lake. We also had meetings with A. [as published] Dole, leader of the Republican Senate majority, and a number of other senators, in particular, S. Nunn and R. Lugar—the authors of the well-known conversion program. It is hard to suspect these people of an ignorance of geography.

[Kirinitsiyanov] On what did the talks concentrate?

[Tokayev] The first topic was nuclear nonproliferation. The Americans are much gratified by Kazakhstan's position. The nonproliferation procedures are to be extended indefinitely and unconditionally. A special conference, which will clarify all the details of states' positions in respect to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), will begin in April. My speech in New York is planned for 19 April. The American delegation will be headed by A. Gore.

Second, we will comprehensively develop mutually beneficial political and economic cooperation. According to A. Gore, Kazakhstan is seen as the United States' most important and key partner in Central Asia.

And third and finally, there was a discussion of our relationship with Russia. The IZVESTIYA "proposition" that Kazakhstan should be sought "somewhere next to Russia" is thereby graphically confounded. Its place needs no particular clarification. It is natural that we were asked about Kazakhstan's relations with Russia. A. Gore received with understanding our statement that Russia is for our republic an indisputable priority in foreign policy. For the United States also, in fact, as the U.S. vice president said, relations with Russia are very important.

The vice president of the United States emphasized that he supports the integration of the former republics of the Soviet Union, and the criteria of such integration were outlined for the first time during A. Qazhygeldin's visit, furthermore. It should, in the Americans' opinion, be undertaken in accordance with the will of the peoples of these countries and may not be aimed against any states that do not desire this integration. And, finally, this process should promote democracy, the observance of human rights, and economic prosperity. Support for Nursultan Nazarbayev's idea of a Eurasian Union was thus stated, essentially.

[Kirinitsiyanov] Our president expressed this idea for the first time exactly a year ago, addressing students of Moscow State University. And a year later this is being mentioned in far-off America. It should be acknowledged for the sake of objectivity, incidentally, that the publication with which we began this interview spoke very warmly about A. Qazhygeldin, about the fact that he takes seriously the idea of integration with Russia. And feels even its mistakes as his own....

[Tokayev] It has to be said that some stereotype of coverage of the visits of officials has been cultivated in the Russian press, and it is not only a question of Kazakhstan. A very ironical view is taken of the trips of the Russian prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs. Everyone is entitled to his own vision of problems, of course. But.... I do not believe that this style can fully reflect the complex processes in relations between states.

I entirely disagree, incidentally, that the American media skirted our prime minister's visit. There were articles in THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST. I personally saw television coverage of the visit.

Speaking about the nature of relations with the United States, it should be noted that they are based on the Democratic Partnership Charter, which was signed by Bill Clinton and Nursultan Nazarbayev in February 1994. We have now gone further. A declaration on trade, economic, and investment cooperation, and also a memorandum on the development of business services in the sphere of market information, a declaration on investment cooperation, and an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of the environment and the protection of natural resources have been signed. And, finally, the GLOBE program, which provides for assistance to Kazakhstan in the sphere of environmental education.

We had for quite some time been seeking an increase in the quota in the sale of uranium. And we achieved this. The quota has been increased. This will bring the republic hundreds of millions of dollars. Although I would not as yet care to cite the precise figure of the sale volume....

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Kirinitsiyanov] In other words, we should expect new "surprises" similar to the operation for the delivery of enriched uranium from the banks of the Irtysh to the American state of Tennessee.

[Tokayev] Yes, of course.

[Kirinitsiyanov] Let us clarify the situation as regards cooperation in the sphere of oil and gas production. The official announcements were all too reticent.

[Tokayev] Once again I shall emphasize that when we were conducting talks about cooperation in this sector, the Americans had no difficulty in finding both the Caspian lowland and our Tengiz. The meeting at Chevron was held in an unofficial atmosphere, a luncheon. But the point is that oil negotiations were conducted with Gore and Talbott and even in the Defense Department. Thus, oil today is in not only the economic but also the political sphere.

[Tokayev] You observed prior to the visit to the United States that Kazakhstan had complaints about Chevron. You did not, it is true, decode what lies behind this. To what extent did the meeting in America help to smooth over the rough patches in our relations?

[Tokayev] This is how the matter stands. Akezhan Qazhygeldin described our concept of the development of the oil and gas complex. There is a plan, for example, for an alternative oil pipeline—running into Iran to a depth of up to 42 km. Together with the construction of the Caspian pipeline—from Tengiz to Novorossiysk—of course. Our prime minister approached this problem altogether conceptually, which made a favorable impression on the Americans. Kazakhstan oil is a question of national security not only for our republic. It means a new economic order in the region, a new alignment of forces. And our partners in the United States, as representatives of a great power with strategic interests practically everywhere, should react appropriately to such plans.

Our partners adopted quite a benevolent attitude toward this position, toward the Iranian version included. White, first deputy energy secretary, a top specialist in the oil and gas sector, who will set forth the specific considerations of the U.S. Administration, will be visiting Almaty shortly.

[Kirinitsiyanov] And which of them was given preference?

[Tokayev] Various options were considered, without any preferences. The Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline is not being called in question in the least. It is a question of the alignment of forces in the next century. Vice President A. Gore expressed understanding of our proposals.

Explanations were given as regards our complaints in respect to Chevron. As we know, the company remained outside of the "picture" of the agreement on the so-called "Phase 1" of the KTK [expansion not given]. And not through the fault of Kazakhstan. So it seems to us, in any event (it should be borne in mind that the principle of what is good for Chevron is good for the United States operates in this case). We are now proposing that the Americans take part in "Phase 2." America's position is that the pipeline to Novorossiysk will not resolve the problem of exports of Kazakhstan oil and that Chevron has found itself unfairly circumvented.

We told A. Gore that Kazakhstan assets had not been transferred to the KTK, and the Americans received this news with pronounced satisfaction. As far as Chevron is concerned.... It was for some time a monopoly operator, and this evidently influenced its tactics in relations with Kazakhstan. I believe that these are "growing pains," which are perfectly treatable. Our prime minister put it quite colorfully: Chevron, it seems, was miserable in its isolation at Tengiz. Our partners were duly impressed by this joke.

[Kirinitsiyanov] Was the question of the Oman Oil Company, which was one of the sponsors of the project, raised? Is it really headed by a fraudster of international proportions?

[Tokayev] Well, his reputation has been tarnished in America, in any event. But the crux of the matter is that the "keys" to the project lie with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The bank decided that it would finance not the Caspian consortium and not individual companies but the countries concerned. And a government guarantee is a serious thing. As a result, we have reached agreement that consultations on the construction of the KTK and other oil problems will continue.

I would like to emphasize once again that questions of oil production have switched to the political category. And it would be correct, therefore, were they to be tackled with the participation of representatives of political circles. This, in any event, is how matters stand in the United States.

Summing up, I may say with confidence that the U.S. dialogue reached a qualitatively new level. From tales concerning our country, we switched to a discussion of specific forms of cooperation. It is important also that Washington continues to have a steady positive view of Kazakhstan as a bastion of democracy and market transformations in Central Asia. As before, great authority is enjoyed in the United States by Nursultan Nazarbayev, which was emphasized by A. Gore. The emphatically hospitable attitude toward A. Qazhygeldin, who in the United States is considered one of the most capable reformers of the post-Soviet period, was noticeable also. Thus, the prime minister's visit was undoubtedly a landmark in bilateral relations. It is now a question of realization of the documents that were signed and the accords that were reached.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Socialist Party Likely To Back Nazarbayev in Referendum

LD0704162495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, April 7 (Interfax)—Kazakhstan's Socialist Party, one of the country's largest opposition parties, does not back the statement of the Respublika coalition, which opposed the extension of powers of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev until the year 2000. The statement was made in an interview with Interfax by the party secretary Ermukhan Ertysbayev.

The Socialist party has around 50,000 members. In the spring of 1994 the party initiated the creation of a union of opposition forces, Respublika, but later it left the coalition.

According to Ertysbayev, the bureau of the Socialist Party on April 2 took a unanimous decision to back at the referendum on April 29 the proposal to extend the current president's powers, because there are "no equal candidates in Kazakhstan to the post occupied by Nazarbayev so far." The gap in the rating between Nazarbayev and any other politician amounts to over 40%, according to him.

Ertysbayev believes that the parties and public movements which backed the Respublika coalition do not enjoy the support of the broad strata of Kazakhstan's population. He said that Respublika virtually does not exist today, because it is not registered in the Justice Ministry, like some public movements, which are part of it.

A spokesman for the People's Congress of Kazakhstan (PCK) told Interfax that with the absence of its leader Olzhas Suleymenov, the party had not yet prepared a statement on extending the presidential powers. The party is likely to take a decision shortly on taking part in the referendum.

At the same time, the party believes that Nazarbayev "should present a convincing argument for the need to extend his powers".

Earlier Suleymenov declared his intention to stand for presidency at the elections, which were scheduled for December 1996.

Parties Pledge Support for Nazarbayev in Referendum

LD0804081695 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The People's Unity, Renewal Party, and People's Congress of Kazakhstan parties have issued a joint statement which gives a positive assessment of the foreign and domestic policy of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, and for his constant activity for deepening the integration processes, mutually beneficial cooperation and good-neighborliness, and the formation of settled interethnic relations.

In the statement, all three parties expressed their support for the proposal put forward at the session of the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan to hold a nationwide referendum in the republic on extending the term in office of the head of state until the year 2000.

The Party of the People's Unity of Kazakhstan, the Party of the Revival of Kazakhstan, and the People's Congress of Kazakhstan party appealed to all parties and movements and all citizens of the republic to take an active part in the forthcoming referendum, and to do their utmost to promote the processes of economic, political and spiritual revival of all the peoples on the basis of democracy, equality, the freedom of citizens, progress and justice, which are under way in the country.

Electoral Commission Chairman Views Planned Referendum

954F2036A Almaty PANORAMA in Russian No 13, 1 Apr 95 p 9

[Interview with Yuriy Kim, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan, by Nurlan Makhmudov, PANORAMA correspondent; place and date not given: "The New Central Electoral Commission Will Not Repeat the Mistakes of Its Predecessors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Makhmudov] What is the difference between the referendum that is scheduled for 29 April and the presidential elections that are proposed for next year.?

[Kim] There really is a lot in common between them, but these are completely different political actions. The elections assume the possible participation of several candidates, the preparation by each of them of a special preelection program of various measures and actions, and the diversion of substantial material resources. Naturally, the president will be distracted from the fulfillment of his immediate tasks, and not he alone, but his whole team. Therefore, I think that in the current economic and political situation—given the absence of a Supreme Council—it is not possible and it is not necessary to conduct such political campaigns.

The first session of the People's Assembly of Kazakhstan—I will mention that this is a consultative organ under the president—recommended that the president conduct a national referendum in which one question will be raised: Do you agree to extend to 1 December of the year 2000 the full powers of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev, who was nationally elected on 1 December 1991? After consultations, the president on 25 March issued an edict with which he established the staff of the Central Electoral Commission and the day for conducting a republic referendum. The membership of the Central Electoral Commission was completely renewed—for us this is the first such major political action—and we realize that a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

great deal on 29 April will depend on us. I hope that people will actively participate in the voting on this day.

[Makhmudov] Yuriy Alekseyevich, you are a specialist in the field of state structuring, but recently, following the example of the American ambassador, Kazakhstan is being called the teacher of democracy: Do you not think that this referendum could appear at this time to be an assault on democracy?

[Kim] Perhaps individual diplomats sing dithyrambs to our state, but we must in no case flatter ourselves—we are only at the start of our road to building a democratic state. But we should also not be unnecessarily modest: Rather strong sprouts of democracy have germinated here, and they are growing stronger. This referendum can also be considered one of the manifestations of a democratic state, when the people themselves take part in the discussion of such an important question. If the full powers of the president had been extended at the Assembly delegate level, the fact would not have fallen within the scope of democracy.

[Makhmudov] It would probably be pertinent here to inquire about the form and norms of conducting a referendum and, if possible, to compare them with the norms of the recently held referendum in Uzbekistan.

[Kim] I would not like to criticize our neighbors—their referendum was conducted according to their own law, which was adopted by the highest representative organ. But in our law on the conduct of a referendum, which was adopted by an edict of the president, Article 2 directly explains the principles of its conduct: openness, voluntary participation in the referendum, universally equal and direct voting right to a secret vote, and each participant in the referendum has one vote. It is exactly here that all the democratic principles are envisioned, and they conform to international norms. What is most important is that this law fully conforms to our Constitution.

[Makhmudov] After the events of the first half of March, when the Constitutional Court declared the last Supreme Council body illegitimate, everyone will willy-nilly compare the work of the present membership of the Central Electoral Commission and the scandalously known past...

[Kim] The new Central Electoral Commission will attract more fixed attention from all sides, which is natural. But we have now assembled well-known people here: four lawyers and people of other professions who have a lot of experience in state work. Each one of us will carefully check everything in the laws, right down to punctuation marks. We are obligated to conduct work in such a way that there is no possibility of declaring our documents as not being in conformity to legislation. I can declare this on everyone's behalf, and as the chairman. The previous commission, of course, also conducted its work carefully, but I am a proponent in such cases of rechecking things a dozen times, and, if necessary, bringing in additional experts.

[Makhmudov] Your forecast regarding the results of the 29 April referendum?

[Kim] We will see only after the completion of the referendum, and we cannot anticipate events. But as a citizen and as a person, I am confident of a positive outcome.

Results of Poll on Need for Referendum

954F2026A Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Flash poll prepared by special correspondent Gulmira Nurgazinova: "The Politician the Republic Needs Today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty—**Preparations for a nationwide referendum. This topic is perhaps the most timely one for our compatriots. Our correspondent went to residents and guests of Almaty with one question: Why, in your view, is it necessary to conduct a referendum on extending the term of office of the chief of state?**

Murat Kurmanov, driver from the Almatygorstroy Trust:

I do not think there are any alternatives to Nazarbayev. His foreign and domestic policy are contributing to Kazakhstan's development and the growth of its prestige in the international arena. Therefore, a referendum is enough; it will require smaller financial costs than presidential elections would in order to extend the authority of the chief of state for another term.

Zhomart Ualiyev, teacher on the faculty of mechanics and applied mathematics of Kazakhstan State University:

Our voters, unfortunately, have not become accustomed to participating actively in elections and taking into account and weighing the positive and negative qualities of the candidates. Not to mention predicting their actions, which are also reflected there. Therefore, one cannot always tell from the results of the elections which person will take over power—the one who is actually concerned about the country and the people or the extremist and perhaps the populist. The experience of past years has shown that Nazarbayev is the politician the republic needs today. And at the present time conducting a referendum is the only correct decision.

Sergey Zhuk, entrepreneur (Akmola):

By nationality I am Ukrainian. I was born and grew up in Kazakhstan, and I do not intend to go anywhere. This is my Motherland, and this is where I feel I belong. The policy conducted by President Nazarbayev has a lot to do with this. This is the kind of leader our multinational republic needs. Of course, our state has its problems and they are not small. In particular on the plane of interethnic relations and bilingualism. But they can be surmounted, and one of the forms for solving them is the referendum.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Zulfiya Zhunusova, student at Almaty State Medical Institute:

Kazakhstan's major achievement is peace and stability in the region. And the president and the policy he pursues deserve no small amount of the credit for this. Therefore, conducting a the referendum proposed by the representatives of all ethnic groups living in the republic at the First Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan is a rational decision.

Vasiliy Morev, pensioner (Almaty):

I will vote for President Nazarbayev with both hands. But I believe that the referendum was lost with the collapse of the Union. You probably recall that the Soviet people demonstrated their wish to preserve the USSR, and the Belovezha agreement underscored that decision. Will the same thing not happen again? If you ask the man in the street, will his word be worth a plugged nickel?!

Viktor Zeybel, engineer-builder MChP [expansion not given] (Kokshetau):

It is very good that we have finally learned to recognize our mistakes, and I hope that we will learn to draw lessons from them as well. There is a good Russian proverb: "Do not change horses in the middle of a stream." This seems to be that stream, the condition of the society's transition from one quality to another, when changing the leader could mean changing the course as well. So I am in favor of the referendum and I support Nazarbayev's candidacy as well.

Aynyagul Tuyakayeva, housewife (Almaty):

The referendum will demonstrate the opinion of the majority of people of Kazakhstan. I hope our compatriots will support the proposal to keep Nursultan Nazarbayev for a second presidential term. We know and understand his strategy. The fight against crime that has been started in the republic confirms that Nazarbayev places the interests of the people first. We must give him an opportunity to realize everything he has earmarked.

Nazarbayev Gives German President List of POW Graves

LD1004165395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, April 10 (Interfax)—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev handed over in Almaty Monday to German President Roman Herzog a list of 7,500 graves of German prisoners of war.

Nazarbayev said during the handover ceremony that this act "must draw Kazakhstan and Germany even closer and strengthen confidence between the two peoples".

On the same day, the two countries' foreign ministers signed an inter—governmental agreement on taking care of the graves of servicemen.

The two sides have exchanged protocols on the exchange of instruments of ratification on the treaty on encouragement and mutual protection of capital investments.

For their part, the interior ministers of Kazakhstan and Germany signed an inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in combating organized crime, terrorism and other types of dangerous crime.

Herzog told the news conference following the signing ceremony that, during the talks, he and Nazarbayev had reached an understanding on drafting an agreement "which would help the Germans living in the republic settle permanently in Kazakhstan."

On April 11 the German president will visit the South-Kazakhstan Region.

Nazarbayev Addresses Conference on Crime, Bribery

LD0704205995 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Speech by Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the third working conference of the republican law and order headquarters for the fight against crime in Almaty on 7 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The situation regarding the clearing up of crimes has improved. Street crime is falling. There are fewer robberies, thefts, and acts of hooliganism. Work to combat economic crime has also picked up. During this period, 40 percent more cases of taking bribery were cleared up, 50 percent more cases of grave and especially grave misappropriation, and 52 percent more cases of abuse of official position.

We have begun to arrest high-ranking officials who take bribes and bring them to book. The work to fight corruption in the state structures has thus advanced. [passage omitted]

The capital is flooded with foreigners. They are engaged in illegal trade, buying up real estate, and contracting fictitious marriages. What are the city's migration services doing? Do we have any at all? Yes or no? They basically count how many people go out and how many come in. [passage omitted]

From now on the council for fighting crime will be headed by Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin. I will continue to head the headquarters, and he will conduct all these meetings only in my absence. Goodbye, until the next meeting.

Premier Sets Out Views on Oil Projects

LD1004083595 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Report on news conference attended by Kazakhstani Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin following his visits to the United States and Canada, in Almaty on 6 April]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified correspondent] Another great step has been taken in Kazakhstan's foreign policy. The fact that representatives of all the media were present at the meeting proved the importance of the discussion which lay ahead. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The issues in which journalists were interested related not only to Qazhegeldin's visit to the American continent. They were interested, for example, in Chevron's participation in Kazakh oil affairs, the construction of oil pipelines in the republic, as well as in implementation of the anti-crisis program by the Kazakh government.

[Begin recording] [Qazhegeldin] We met three oil companies at the same time. We were received by Chevron, Mobil, and Amoco. These are three out of the once-famous seven oil sisters. They are involved in development, extraction, transportation, sale and purchase of oil and petroleum products on CIS territory. And all these three companies, surprising though it is, are working very actively both in Kazakhstan and Russia.

For the first time I became aware that Amoco is seeking to unite us with Russia in the interests of the world oil-products distribution system. Yelena Katsyyeva asked how Kazakhstan's leadership is greets this proposal. We naturally greet it with interest. These are not bad steps. I think that this just proves that capital basically moves borders closer rathern than further apart.

As for Chevron and the Caspian Pipeline Consortium [CPC]: Chevron is not a CPC member. It is trying to obtain a share in the CPC project in return for a certain financial injection. But this is not currently being solved the way Chevron would like. Moreover, the project is already divided into two phases. And we offered Chevron a part in the second phase; say, to invest a certain amount of capital to purchase a certain category of shares. But we have made the same proposals to Mobil, Agip and British Gas - to everyone who is going to work on developing this mineral on Kazakh territory and who will naturally need to export outside CIS borders.

I think that if we build the Caspian Pipeline Consortium at this swift pace and at the same time we carry out economic reforms in the same fashion - in Russia in particular, in view of the agreement signed with the International Monetary Fund on a final reserve loan of $6.5 billion, there is demand for deregulation of the oil and petroleum products market - then perhaps in a year and a half or two years the issue of where to export will not be so acute. It will be possible to sell it right on our doorstep at the same prices. Nevertheless, the pipeline consortium, and most importantly the pipeline itself—the consortium is not so important—is necessary both for Russia and for us.

I am more than sure that both Russia and we will seek an alternative route to the south because the Black Sea direction is not very promising given those volumes which we jointly possess. The Bosphorus is a problem which will torment us all.

So far, that's it.

[Unidentified journalilst] Speaking about Kazakhstan's oil pipeline problem, you said that the Black Sea direction has proved unpromising and that both Kazakhstan and Russia will seek routes to the south. Does this mean that there are plans in Kazakhstan to construct a pipeline via the southern countries, i.e. Afghanistan and Pakistan? And if so, who might participate in the construction of such a pipeline?

And a second question. Could you tell us why the tender on developing the Vasilkovskiy deposit was cancelled, all the more so since the tender was entering its final stage, and the participating sides had invested substantial amounts of money? Thank you.

[Qazhegeldin] Thank you for the question. I do not think that the Black Sea direction is unpromising at the moment. Today it is the most promising and priority direction. But as soon as we go over a figure of 600 million tonnes of oil a year, not one country, including Russia or Ukraine, will tolerate such a volume of oil passing across this enclosed sea. You see, the future lies with the Greens, the future is ecological programs.

I do not completely believe in this project from the point of view of its future development. For now it is the most promising.

Moreover, Russia, Russia's Rosneft and Lukoil are involved in Kazakh deposits and gas deposits in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. And you well know well the Azeri Program for the Caspian Shelf of Azerbaijan. Where is this oil to go?

There is also a program, an alternative project - it was proposed by Kazakhstan - for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and the Transcaucasian CIS states, where Turkey is the outlet. I think that this project will be discussed in the near future. We are very interested in it.

The second question was about the Vasilkovskiy project and tender. The tender was, to say the least, protracted. And we took steps to make the activity of all companies participating in the tender more dynamic. But, given our sovereign right, if we find a project which will cover the sum of investments offered in the tender projects, and which over and above this will give the government a bonus for social problems in 1995, we will give preference to that company. I state this quite definitely.

[Correspondent] But so far no such company has been found.

[Qazhegeldin] You know, to our great surprise, it turns out that there are eight such companies. We do not know whether to believe them or not.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Correspondent] But maybe the tender commission would ...

[Qazhegeldin, interrupting] We will certainly offer these projects to the tender commission. But the tender commission which has been working on 18 projects for four years now and has been unable to take a decision so far ... we have the right to make our own decisions. For example, the tender commission considers the issue for four years and comes to the conclusion that Company X is the preferred option for this site because it is offering, say 100 million in investments into the project. And suddenly a company comes along saying 150 million plus 50 for the government. What do you think, which one should I give preference to? Probably the latter proposal, right? I expect that's the way it will happen, although it may also be the other way round. [passage omitted]

Statement, Cooperation Agreement Signed With Indonesia

LD0704203995 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As is known, an official delegation from Indonesia headed by President Suharto arrived in Almaty on 6 April.

This is the first official visit to our country by the head of one of the leading countries in Southeast Asia. For the first time, the official welcoming ceremony of a lofty guest took place at the Kazakh presidential palace. After the two countries' national anthems had been played, a guard of honor greeted the president of Indonesia.

Afterwards, talks between President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev and President of Indonesia Suharto took place in the palace's Fireplace Hall. A wide range of issues relating to bilateral cooperation were discussed during the conversation. The two countries' heads expressed a mutual aspiration for further developing friendly relations by means of deepening mutual confidence and understanding on the basis of principles of equality and respect for sovereignty.

Negotiations between Kazakh Foreign Minister Qasymzhomart Toqayev and Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas were held at the same time. The relevance and timeliness of President Suharto's visit to Kazakhstan were noted during the conversation. In addition, it was stressed that there is a need to take urgent measures to realize the potential for cooperation that is available. It is important that apart from economic relations, the two foreign ministers talked about their countries' opportunities for cooperation in the area of politics.

Answering journalists' questions, Ali Alatas noted that the first meeting between our heads of state will also give impetus to cooperation in the field of trade. It is of no small importance that the Indonesian delegation includes 26 entrepreneurs who will carry out a direct dialogue with their colleagues in Kazakhstan. He supported the idea of including our country as an observer in the ASEAN regional forum.

Today Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Indonesian President Suharto signed a joint statement saying that the development of relations between the two countries is in our people's common interests and will take place in strict accordance with the UN Charter, and that the use of force must not be an instrument of foreign policy. The sides confirmed their intention to conduct consultations and cooperate in the sphere of politics, economics, trade, and culture.

Foreign Ministers Qasymzhomart Toqayev and Ali Alatas then signed an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on economic and technical cooperation.

After the signing ceremony, Indonesia President Suharto laid flowers at the eternal flame at the Memorial to Glory. [passage omitted]

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Dismisses Administration's Lone Ethnic Russian

LD0704122195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS corespondent Boris Maynayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek April 7 TASS—Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev dismissed First Deputy State Secretary Aleksandr Bogatov, the only remaining ethnic Russian in the republican administration, presidential spokesman Kamil Bayalinov told TASS Friday,

There are 800 thousand ethnic Russians living in the Central Asian republic.

Bogatov, 44, who is a master of sciences, economics, is fluent in English and Czech. During his one-year work in the administration of the head of state he was never criticised.

Bayalinov told TASS that no ethnic Russians remained in the rank of deputy state secretaries or chiefs of departments. However, there are Russian-speaking specialists of lower rank, according to him.

The spokesman refused to link such a situation to ethnic reasons saying that "only professional qualities of the experts" were taken into consideration.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Address to Parliament Detailed

LD0704191095 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first session of the Supreme Assembly of the Republic of Tajikistan continued its work today. Our correspondent reports:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Correspondent] A few minutes before the morning began, Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov approached group of deputies in the Supreme Assembly courtyard. He greeted the deputies warmly and held an spontaneous conversation with them. In passing he noted that the session was taking place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, and that he was satisfied with the deputies' support for his proposals. The bell calling the parliamentarians into the session hall interrupted the president's conversation with the deputies.

Safarali Rajabov, who was elected yesterday as chairman of the Supreme Assembly, opened the session. He gave the floor to Ibrahim Usmonov, the head of the session secretariat, who informed the deputies about the correspondence addressed to the session. [passage omitted]

After Usmonov's report the chairman gave the floor to the president of the country, Emomali Rakhmanov.

The head of state addressed parliament: Yesterday we confirmed the composition of the republic's government, he said, except for the minister of defense of the Republic of Tajikistan. Therefore, before I start making a speech I would like you to return to this matter. Emomali Rakhmanov read out his edict appointing Major-General Sherali Khayrulloyev as minister of defense of the Republic of Tajikistan, and asked for this proposal to be supported. The deputies confirmed the president's edict by a majority vote. Thus, Sherali Khayrulloyev is appointed minister of defense of the Republic of Tajikistan from today.

Then Emomali Rakhmanov continued his speech at the parliament. [passage omitted]

His speech embraced all aspects of the life and activity of the country and gave an analysis of the political, social, and economic situation that has developed in the republic recently. It makes recommendations aimed at raising the living standards of the population, providing inhabitants of the republic with jobs, resolving social and economic issues and international relations, and the preparations for celebrating the Victory Day holiday. He naturally raised the issue of implementation of the edicts by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on additional benefits for participants in the Second World War and those who lost their breadwinners.

Dear deputies, he said, I welcome your aspiration and readiness to assume responsibility for serving the people and the state at such a responsible time. I regard you as my fellow campaigners.

Holding the first session of the Supreme Assembly is undoubtedly of historic significance. The incalculable importance of the session's work is that the new Constitution is beginning to operate in the republic. This means that Tajikistan has irrevocably defined its path of development. And as president I now regard it as my most important duty that the articles of our Constitution should not remain dry-as-dust appeals, but should instead exert a beneficial influence on the path of development. The Constitution and our laws must be guarantees of civic rights, national unity, the consolidation of statehood, and the confirmation of our international agreements. This must be a strategic trend in our work.

We naturally understand that these are not the tasks that can be accomplished in a moment. It will indeed be difficult to resolve them in even two or three years.

Yes, for 70 years we were part of a great state. However, it was only national sovereignty that created the conditions for the Tajik state to be recognized in the world community. Sovereign Tajikistan has been recognized by 117 states of the world. We are full members of the UN and other international political and social organizations. We have established diplomatic relations with these states.

These are the fruits of sovereignty. That is true. But there is another truth: There is no such thing as absolute sovereignty in the world, especially economic. Therefore, the severance of economic ties with the former republics of the USSR led to the impoverishment of our economy, as it did to the other sovereign states of the former USSR. In 1990 other Soviet republics supplied our republic with more than half a million tonnes of oil products, over 1.5 million tonnes grain, more than 2 billion cubic meters of natural gas, almost 1 million cubic meters of timber, and about 350,000 tonnes of rolled metal. Today we need over $1 billion to buy these at world prices.

And we also need farm machinery, vehicles, spare parts for them, and much, much else, for our economy to work. In order to buy them the government will initially seek a credit elsewhere, that is to say a loan. And then we will purchase these needs. But how long can we live on credit?

We must think seriously about how we can find ways of reducing the debt and a further existence on credit. We have the potential to do this and we need to use it.

Above all, we need to reduce imports of products that we can make ourselves. Conditions in our republic will allow us to provide the population with foodstuffs and to cut grain imports by 50 percent. In order to achieve this grain output must be raised to 700,000 or 800,000 tonnes; aluminum output must be increased to 400,000 tonnes; extraction and refining of gold and other precious and semi-precious minerals must be increased; cotton production must be raised to the levels of past years; and electricity production, for which a number of neighboring and foreign states are potential consumers, must be developed.

One should not forget that the republic possesses considerable oil and gas reserves. So it is necessary to exploit them.

We have all the potential to accomplish these tasks. The manpower exists. There are also the professionals; there are still enough of them in the republic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

What we lack today is money. To this end it is now necessary to prove the world that Tajikistan has chosen a path of democratic transformations, that peace and mutual understanding have today become established in the republic, that the government is ready to continue the inter-Tajik negotiations without any additional conditions, and that we are prepared to cooperate with all countries in the world on mutually advantageous conditions. That is still our main task for the present. And I hope that the people's deputies will exert every effort to achieve it. We will then be able to attract foreign investment to develop our economy.

We need to prove that we can work and that we want to work, and that we complete construction of the Kulyab-Kalaikhumb highway, the Rogun hydroelectric power station and other very important national economic projects, and that we are not forgetting about the importance of building the Kurgan Tyube-Kulyab railway, the Pendzhikent-Samarkand railway, and the Anzob road tunnel.

The head of state cited a number of other aspects of development that will bolster the international community's confidence in the republic, and that will in turn promote the development of society. [passage omitted]

Further on Border Incursion by Opposition Forces

Border Guards Kill 9 'Militants'

LD1004120595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, April 10 (Interfax)—Nine Tajik opposition militants were killed by Russian border guards Sunday night when they tried to storm a border post in Dashti-Yazgulem, Gorno Badaskhshan.

According to the press center of the Russian border force in Tajikistan, after the storming attempt the militants returned to their initial positions.

After the fighting several mildly shell-shocked Russian border guards were hospitalized, a press center spokesman said.

Reinforcements Pushing Back Insurgents

LD1004120695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border in Gorno-Badakhshan remains tense, but is under control, Lieutenant-General Nikolay Bordyuzha, deputy director of Russia's Federal Frontier Guards Service, told ITAR-TASS on Monday. According to the latest information, Islamic commandos last night and on Monday morning attacked several times Dashti-Yazgulem post of the Khorog district. The attack was unsuccessful, and commandos, sustaining losses, retreated to their previous positions.

Reserves of the Russian frontier troops, fighting their way to Dashti-Yazgulem post are approaching the post, General Bordyuzha stated. Russian frontier guards drive commandos from the heights and key posts they had seized.

There were no casualties among frontier guards during last night's fighting, Bordyuzha said. Soldiers and sergeants show courage and valour. The suddenness of Islamic commandos' raid and their numerical advantage are no longer of decisive importance. As reinforcements are approaching and there is support from aviation, the enemy will be forced out.

Over 46 Killed in Four Days

LD1004132495 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Report over video by correspondent Mikhail Nikulin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting and clashes have been going on for four days now in Gorno-Badakhshan. The position of the defenders of the sixth outpost of the Kalai-kumb border detachment is particularly critical. Having left Khorog to assist a column, they are fighting their way through to their men and are now 40 km from Yazgulem. The only road from Kalai-kumb to Khorog has been blown up by the opposition in several places and this is making it extremely difficult to deliver reinforcements and ammunition to the blockaded border posts. Dead and wounded are having to be evacuated while battles are being fought. Over four days of fighting and clashes the border guards have lost 26 men, 16 of them servicemen from the Kazakh battalion. Last night alone and in the course of the day, the opposition lost over 20 people dead in the attempt to capture the border post at Dashti-Yazgulem. [video cuts to show A. Chechulin, commander of the group of Russian troops in Tajikistan, speaking to camera]

[Chechulin] That entire series of bandit actions are nothing other than the beginning of a wide-scale, well-prepared aggression behind the screen of talks on an inter-Tajik peace settlement.

[Nikulin] The situation in Gorno-Badakhshan was deemed critical at an extraordinary session of the Government of Tajikistan yesterday. [video shows aerial view of area, soldiers firing, APC, road, tanks, soldiers injured, Anatoliy Chechulin speaking to camera, map behind him]

UN Envoy Escapes Mine Blast

LD1004120895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1133 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 10 Apr—An Italian-made mine exploded under a truck carrying Russian border guards on a border road leading to the Nizhnyy Pyanj checkpoint at 0845 local time today. It exploded in front of Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, the special envoy of the UN secretary general to Tajikistan, who is here on a visit. Fortunately no one was hurt.

Piriz-Ballon himself had intended to enter Afghanistan through the Nizhnyy Pyanj checkpoint for a meeting with Tajik opposition leaders. However safety considerations did not allow him to cross the border in that sector, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed by Lieutenant General Anatoliy Chechulin, the commander of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan. He also said that according to information from the border guards a group of Tajik fighters under field commander Khakim-Bangi had planted mines on a number of roads in the area. Two have already been found and rendered harmless.

Situation Reportedly Under Control

LD1004154795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1240 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax)—The Russian border guard contingent in Tajikistan and enforcement units from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan "are fully controlling the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border", the spokesman for the director of the Russian Federal Border Service Aleksandr Suvorov told Interfax Monday.

He said, since Monday morning, border aviation started "active support" of border guards' operations against militants of the Tajik opposition.

Suvorov said that since the beginning of the opposition's current offensive (April 7), the border guards have lost 26 people killed. Among them are a Russian citizen, 14 servicemen from the Kazakh battalion and 11 border guards recruited from Tajikistan. Over 40 servicemen were injured.

According to the information obtained by the Russian Federal Border Service, militants of the Tajik opposition "plan a seizure of Khorog, the administrative center of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous area."

Rakhmanov Calls For UNSC Talks

LD1004154295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1240 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, April 10 (Interfax)—Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov has called on United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to discuss the Tajik-Afghan border situation at a meeting of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC], head of the Tajik Foreign Ministry's Information department Zafar Saidov told Interfax Monday.

In the words of the President, "large-scale combat operations have begun at some sections of the Tajik-Afghan border with the aim to seize positions and power, primarily in the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, despite the claims of the opposition leaders about their adherence to the peaceful settlement of the inter-Tajik conflict."

"We have information about intentions of the opposition to make the region a springboard for further expansion of its influence zone on central areas of the republic and seizure of power throughout Tajikistan," notes Rakhmanov.

A column of Russian border guards was shelled from Afghan territory on April 7 in the zone controlled by the Kalaikhumb border unit. The column was moving along the border. The shelling was carried out despite "the preliminary notification of Afghan border guards about the movement."

"The border guards had to clash with the militants which resulted in the loss of life and on-going combat operations in the zone," stressed the President.

"Since April 7 the irreconcilable opposition units have been taking regular attempts to trespass the state border in the Pyanj, Moscow, Yazgulyam and Khorog directions," says the appeal.

Bearing in mind the current situation, "the Tajik government and its military-political allies had to use all forces and means in their disposal in order to protect the state border," notes Rakhmanov.

UN Envoy's Talks With Opposition Postponed

LD1004174695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, April 10 (Interfax)—The trip of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz Ballion, now in Dushanbe, to Talukan (Afghanistan) for talks with the Tajik opposition leader Said Abdullo Nuri, planned for April 10, has been cancelled due to security concerns.

The trip was postponed after a vehicle with Russian border guards was blown up on a road near the Nizhny Pyanj control post this morning with an Italian produced mine. No one was hurt in the blast. The UN secretary general's envoy was expected to go to Afghanistan along the same road.

The UN's envoy returned to Dushanbe, a well-informed source told Interfax.

Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov, First Deputy Prime Minister Makhmadsaid Ubaidullayev and Commander of the Russian Border Guard Troops in Tajikistan Anatoliy Chechulin met with diplomats accredited to Tajikistan in Dushanbe today.

Diplomats were briefed on the recent events occurring on the Tajik-Afghan border and, in particular, on its Khorog section and on the message of Tajik President

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Emomali Rakhmonov to the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Russian President, Chairman of the CIS Council Boris Yeltsin.

The Tajik government members told the meeting that the Tajik leadership would take all necessary measures for renewing inter- Tajik talks and completely stabilizing the situation in the republic and in the region on the whole. The Tajik opposition was proposed once again to refrain from armed actions and to begin settling the problem in a peaceful manner.

TASS Carries Roundup on Clashes

LD1004180895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1716 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Twenty six CIS border guards died as a result of clashes with Tajik opposition militants on the border with Afghanistan over the last four days, including one Russian soldier, the press service of the Federal Border Guards Service said. Among the killed are 14 Kazakh and 11 Tajik soldiers.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border worsened dramatically on Friday after a military convoy of about 200 Russian and Kazakh troops came under heavy artillery fire near Kalaikhum in the Gorno- Badakhshan region. As a result, 14 soldiers were killed, five more died later from wounds, and 26 wounded.

On Sunday, Tajik opposition rebels led by Field Commander Zainiddin resumed the shelling of the Daste-Yazghulem border post. After three days of fighting the rebels have so far failed to seize this strategic post. Fighting was still going on there on Monday after Russian combat helicopters delivered strikes on the militants' positions earlier today.

The press center of the Federal Border Guards Service said that about 600 militants armed with firearms and grenade launchers are acting in Gorno-Badakhshan.

The press center said that the border guards fully control the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Over the last three months of 1995, Russian border guards in Tajikistan were attacked 33 times and 10 times involved in fighting with border intruders. As a result of clashes and fighting, nine Russian border guards were killed.

The Tajik military warned that the Pamir region of Tajikistan may become a new pocket of tension unless the explosive situation in the Kalaikhum and Yazghuli sections of the Tajik-Afghan border, where fighting has been going on for four days running, is normalised.

The sources said that over 250 armed opposition militants, who left their winter base in the Pamir mountains on April 2, have infiltrated the Garm district seeking to recruit several thousand rebels to fight the central government.

At the same time, officials in the Tajik leadership believe that the opposition has bogged down in wishful thinking and that the number of its supporters in the Pamir region is at least several times smaller. However, they did not rule out the possibility that the social and political situation in the area may worsen if the opposition carries out acts of sabotage and terrorism.

The opposition sent a clear signal indicating the seriousness of its intentions on Friday when it fired at the Interior Ministry posts in the Village of Khait in the Garm district. Law enforcement agencies are taking urgent steps to prevent destabilisation of the social and political situation in the Pamir region and other districts of the country.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov held an emergency session of the government on Sunday to discuss the situation. The government described the situation as "extremely critical and requiring emergency efforts" to stabilise it.

The government sent appeals to the U.N. secretary-general, the heads of state of the CIS countries and the people of the Gorno- Badakhshan Autonomous Region in Tajikistan.

Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, told the meeting that the series of bandit actions against Russian border guards is the beginning of well-prepared coordinated and large-scale actions by the armed opposition—the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan—aimed at seizing and asserting its power in Badakhshan, with its subsequent extension to the central part of the country.

Border Guards Launch Air Attacks

LD1004212395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax)—More than 30 Tajik opposition militants were killed during attacks launched by Russian border guard aviation near the Yazgulem Gorge (the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region) today, the Russian Federal Border Guard Service's press center told Interfax today.

More than 20 militants were wounded and a rocket launcher was wiped out.

Border guard helicopters carried out several flights, the same source said.

Khorog Border Guard Regiment reserves were brought to the region.

The Khorog Border Regiment has repeatedly been attacked since April 7 by Tajik militants acting on the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

territory of neighboring Afghanistan. According to official sources, 26 Russian border guards have been killed over the last few days.

According to the Federal Border Guard Service, up to 150 Tajik opposition militants were killed on the Tajik-Afghan border during three days of fighting, about the same number of militants were wounded.

Russians Regaining Control of Border Sectors

LD1004194895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1918 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 10 TASS—Russian border troops regained control over the Kalaikhum and Khorog sections of the Tajik-Afghan border and recaptured the Daste-Yazghulem border post after two days of fighting with Tajik opposition militants, Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, said.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, Chechulin said that this has become possible owing to decisive and prompt measures taken by Russian border guards. As a result of almost four days of fighting, they destroyed over 100 Tajik opposition militants and seized a large amount of weapons and ammunition.

However, Kazakh and Tajik border guards also sustained losses: 25 soldiers were killed and about 50 wounded.

The general pointed out that the border guards' actions were provoked by Tajik militants, including those from the Pamir region. The Russian military suggested holding talks from the very first minutes of the attack on the Daste-Yazghulem border post, but for two days they received negative replies from the Pamir opposition leaders.

Moreover, Pamir militants blocked, laid mines or blew up some sections of the road connecting Khorog and Yazghulem. They also placed of [as received] the so-called Pamir self-defence units along the road to prevent the movement of Russian troops from Khorog to Yazghulem. The Russian military had to fight their way through the militants, threatening to destroy them if they do not allow the convoy to go.

Only then did the opposition leaders order their forces to retreat and continue talks with the Russian border guards.

Chechulin said that measures are now being taken to reinforce border posts in the direction of Kalaikhum and Khorog, and the Pyandzh section of the border where Tajik militants have made several attempts lately to cross into Tajikistan from neighbouring Afghanistan and to carry out acts of sabotage and terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Russian military continue talks with the leaders of the Tajik opposition in a bid to persuade them to order their gangs to leave the highway between Kalaikhum and Khorog.

Speaking at an emergency session of the Tajik government convened by President Emomali Rakhmanov on Sunday, Chechulin said that the series of bandit actions against Russian border guards is the beginning of well-prepared coordinated and large-scale actions by the armed opposition—the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan—aimed at seizing and asserting its power in Badakhshan, with its subsequent extension to the central part of the country.

The Tajik military warned that the Pamir region of Tajikistan may become a new pocket of tension unless the explosive situation in the Kalaikhum and Yazghuli sections of the Tajik-Afghan border, where fighting has been going on for four days running, is normalised.

Three Russian Border Guards Killed

LD1104051195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0410 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 11 Apr—Three Russian servicemen have perished in the last 24 hours on the Tajik-Afghan frontier, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of the the Russian frontier troops in Tajikistan, reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent today. According to him, the situation in the Pamirs-Khorog direction has drastically deteriorated. The first outpost of the Khorog frontier guard detachment has entered into battle, and is continuing even at the present time. A grouping of the field commander Salam, who calls himself the chairman of the "Jihad of Gornyy Badakhshan" military council, is confronting the Russian frontier guards.

Russian Helicopters Strafe 'Militants'

LD1104103995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1027 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 TASS—Four Russian helicopter gunships on Tuesday morning strafed groups of Tajik militants close to the first border post manned by the Khorog borderguard unit in Gorno-Badakhshan, killing 17 and bringing the total number of armed opposition militants killed since April 8 to more than 160, according to preliminary information released to ITAR-TASS by the Information Agency of the Federal Border Service.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border in Gorno-Badakhshan remained tense over the past 24 hours, the Information Agency sources told ITAR-TASS.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The militants have been firing all kinds of fire arms and mortars at the first border post of the Khorog unit since 18.00 on Monday.

The border troops which returned the fire from the Khumrangi border post rebuffed numerous attacks in the early morning.

At 03.20 on Tuesday, the militants launched new attacks on the Russian border troops, killing three and wounding 15 men.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Favors 'Speeding Up' Trade Deal With Russia

LD0704161895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, April 7 (Interfax)—Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov thinks it necessary to speed up the development of a long-term, at least for 5 years, trade and economic agreement with Russia. He said this on Friday in the course of a five-hour conversation with members of Russia's government delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov.

Bolshakov declared to Interfax that in the course of this meeting the parties discussed a wide spectrum of issues, as the fulfillment of this long-term agreement depends upon their successful solution. In particular, it concerns cooperation in the field of surveying and production of oil and gas, development of transport communication, and military-technical cooperation.

As Bolshakov said, Niyazov appointed Turkmenistan's Vice Prime Minister Valeriy Otchertsev head of the permanent acting combined commission on developing this long-term agreement and its further implementation.

Bolshakov underlined that "we have reached complete mutual understanding with Niyazov on all issues," in addition, Niyazov expressed great interest in further strengthening and expanding comprehensive cooperation with Russia.

In the course of the conversation the officials also discussed issues related to military-technical cooperation which, to quote Turkmenistan's Deputy Prime Minister Boris Shakhmuradov, "do not contradict the positive neutrality to which Turkmenistan adheres."

Shakhmuradov underlined that specific agreements on these issues would be reached during Niyazov's official visit to Moscow where he is likely to come to "immediately after the celebration of Victory Day in May."

Bolshakov declared that on April 8 participants of these government negotiations would sign an agreement on trade and economic cooperation between Turkmenistan and Russia for 1995 and documents on air, automobile, and rail traffic between the two countries.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Russia

LD0804141395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Lukin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashgabat April 8 TASS—An official Turkmen visit of the Russian Government delegation headed by Vice-Premier Aleksey Bolshakov ended here today after signing bilateral intergovernmental agreements on fundamentals of trade and economic cooperation in 1995, cooperation in communications and transport and improved social guarantees for Russian citizens-members of the Turkmen Armed Forces.

The bilateral goods turnover is expected to considerably increase. The agreement on fundamentals of trade and economic cooperation cancels quoting and licensing of mutual deliveries. The sides will give a priority to the supply of basic products. Turkmenistan will increase the delivery of cotton fibers. Last year it supplied 17,000 tones, this year it will planned to supply 20,000. Turkmenistan will also deliver sheep skins and coke, while Russia will supply 40,000 tones of liquid gas, metal rolled and machine-building products, equipment for oil-processing and oil-extracting industries, agricultural machinery, buses, cars, timber and consumer goods.

Mutual payments will be done either in U.S. dollars or in Russian rubles, partially on the clearing basis. It is planned to conclude clearing contracts between the Roskontrakt and the Turkmen Ministry of Agriculture on the Turkmen delivery of 20,000 tones of cotton fiber. The delivery will be compensated with the Russian supply of grain, flour, sugar and dry milk.

Bolshakov considers the visit to be the beginning of a new stage of long-term equal Russian-Turkmen partnership. In his words, the sides discussed a package of agreements to be signed by the Russian and Turkmen state heads during the upcoming visit of Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov to Moscow in late May-early June.

Shikhmuradov Views Niyazov Appeal for Neutrality Status

LD1104115395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1035 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 11 (Interfax)—President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov has officially appealed to the world community to support the idea of granting his country the status of a neutral state. Interfax - Ukraine was informed of this by Turkmen Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov.

"We have the support of many Asian countries, the question has also been agreed with the leaders of several

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

European nations," he said. The minister stressed that there is understanding on this matter in Russia.

During the talks between Ukraine, Turkmenistan and Iran in Tehran on April 8-9 Ukraine also supported Turkmenistan's desire to be a neutral state.

"We are ready to play the role Switzerland has been playing," Shikhmuradov said. He stressed that such a status would not mean his country would sever ties with the CIS. He also added that at the first stage bilateral consultations would be held with different countries. "Later everything will be registered through appropriate UN structures," the minister said.

Shikhmuradov stressed that Turkmenistan can be given the status of a neutral country on the basis of the 1907 international covenant formulating the key principles of neutrality.

The minister stressed that Turkmenistan has been pursuing a policy of "positive neutrality" for several years.

Iran, Armenia, Ukraine Sign Agreements To Buy Gas

LD1004195595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign ministers of Iran, Armenia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine have signed several agreements on economic and technical cooperation. The agreements provide for selling Turkmen natural gas to Iran, Armenia, and Ukraine in exchange for export of goods that will be delivered via Iran.

Uzbekistan

Results of Perry Visit Viewed

MK0804121695 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Koretskiy and Andrey Saidov: "Results of Perry's Visit to Uzbekistan. American Military Specialists Try On Uzbek Robes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first group of Uzbek Army officers are likely to set off for NATO army training centers to enhance their skills as soon as the end of this year. Such is the outcome of the talks by Pentagon head William Perry with Uzbekistani President Islam Karimov and Defense Minister Rustam Akhmedov. But Perry's visit, which ended yesterday, also pursued a range of other objectives not particularly pushed by the local authorities. Judging by KOMMERSANT-DAILY's information, his objectives were reached on the whole.

According to official information issued in Tashkent on the eve of the visit, what they were most hoping for in the republic, as a result of Perry's visit, were agreements on heightened military-technical cooperation. But neither before the talks with the distinguished visitor, nor after them, was any Uzbek politician or military man able to answer your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent's questions about what forms this cooperation would take. In this connection, the accord on training Uzbek officers in NATO-member countries' army training centers will be, in all likelihood, the only sphere of interaction between the military departments of the United States and Uzbekistan. However, there is yet another accord—on holding joint exercises—for which a special coordination group is planned. Considering the fact that far from all American military men have the foggiest idea of where Uzbekistan is, let alone the probable cost of more or less sizable Uzbek-American army exercises, the probability of such exercises is very close to zero.

The most curious understanding, which does not appear among the official results of Perry's visit, is Tashkent's consent (on a preliminary basis so far) to have U.S. military specialists attached to certain subunits of the national armed forces. To call a spade a spade, these are the most ordinary military advisers who, the men in Tashkent think, will help the country create its own battle-worthy army. But the real importance of this understanding is purely political.

The whole point is that the United States greatly fears that "the democratic process" in Uzbekistan will be disrupted. Given the tradition that took shape on the expanses of the former Union, a national army, as a rule, plays a by no means minor role in any such "disruption." Judging by what Perry said as soon as he set foot on Uzbek soil, Washington does not exclude the possibility that the situation in the republic may follow precisely this scenario—the Pentagon head voiced anxiety both at the situation in the Central Asian region as a whole and Uzbekistan's role in upholding regional security in particular. As for this role, Perry thought it was "critical." In this connection, the admittedly preliminary agreement for the presence in Uzbekistan of American military advisers signals the United States' wish to have information about sentiments prevailing in the republic's army. If one has information, one can control the situation, if one wishes. To all appearances, the men in Tashkent do not take this threat very seriously.

The purely technical aspect of military contacts between the United States and Uzbekistan is also interesting. The point is that after units of the Turkestan Military District were transformed into a National Uzbek Army, the republic came to own considerable arsenals. In addition to that, located in Uzbekistan are a whole number of defense enterprises whose potential even today is of interest for overseas visitors who know about arms manufacture. The republic, in particular, can produce small arms and crew-served [nomernoye] arms, and some types of combat planes and light armored vehicles. It is these potentials that interested the Pentagon head during his visit to Samarkand. If no mutually advantageous cooperation is established, the United States is genuinely worried by the prospect that all these arsenals and capabilities may be used to reach objectives which vary considerably from those Washington is pursuing in this region.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Indonesian President Arrives for Three-Day Visit

LD0804094395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent April 8 TASS—Indonesian President Suharto arrived in Uzbekistan for a three-day official visit today.

Suharto paid his first visit to Uzbekistan in 1989. During his current visit Suharto will hold official talks with President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan and visit Samarkand where he will familiarize himself with masterpieces of architecture of the ancient city.

As ITAR-TASS learned from competent sources, during the official talks the sides will sign a number of important documents, including agreements on trade and economic cooperation, on protection of investments, on exclusion of double taxation and on opening of air communication between the two countries.

President Suharto is accompanied by more than 30 well-known Indonesian businessmen who intend to discuss issues of bilateral cooperation in the fields of tourism, building of hotels, textile industry and communications.

Karimov Comments on Indonesian Leader's Visit

LD1104092695 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 1000 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The official visit to our country by President Suharto of the Republic of Indonesia ended today. Our correspondent Gafur Jamolov has just returned from the farewell ceremony at the airport. Now over to him:

[Jamolov] [Passage omitted] Today, the third day of his visit, President Suharto and President Islam Karimov visited the Chkalov Aircraft Corporation, one of the largest industrial enterprises in Tashkent. The guests were warmly welcomed by the leadership and employees of the corporation, to the sound of Uzbek folk music. Girls dressed in national costume offered flowers. Then the delegation was shown the production process in various departments of the corporation. Zhuravlev, the head of the enterprise, told the Indonesian leader about the plant's production from its earliest days until now. [passage omitted]

At the end of the visit we interviewed President Islam Karimov and asked him to talk about the results of the visit. Here is the interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Islam Abdughaniyevich, President Suharto of the Republic of Indonesia was in Uzbekistan on an official visit for three days. During his visit you had a one-on-one meeting with him, and negotiations took place. After the negotiations documents were signed. The Indonesian president's visit to Uzbekistan has now ended. We would like to know what you think of the negotiations, the talks between the two states, and the results of this visit generally.

[Karimov] The Indonesian delegation headed by Mr. Suharto was in Uzbekistan for three days. And the negotiations, meetings, and talks show above all that Indonesia is greatly interested in Uzbekistan and that generally speaking they are increasingly drawn to us, not only from an economic point of view but in every other respect. From this point of view, Mr. Suharto's visit to Uzbekistan above all raises these ties to a higher level once again, and lays a new legal basis for mutual multilateral relations.

From an economic point of view they are interested in our cotton. Their businessmen generally... [Karimov pauses] For example, there is their first experience in Samarkand, the tea-packing factory; they want to make their contribution to privatizing the factory. And as Mr. Suharto said, they are ready to invest not only in this factory but also in other fields. And they again confirmed their readiness to establish ties and work with Uzbekistan's businessmen and entrepreneurs, in other words with the private sector, as they call it.

If Uzbekistan firmly establishes a Jakarta-Tashkent air route, then the question of tourism generally, in other words them visiting Uzbekistan and Uzbekistan people visiting Jakarta... [Karimov pauses] Indonesia contains 15,000 islands. And seeing their beautiful, beautiful places, truly very nice places, and generally establishing ties through tourism... [Karimov pauses] And as far as tourism in Uzbekistan is concerned, privatization of hotels and tourism generally, they intend to make a contribution. We are creating opportunities for them, and we think that this very large state with its 185 million people, in its aspiration to establish ties in all respects with Uzbekistan—for our part we accept this with open hearts, of course.

We think that they are very peaceable people compared with other states. Come to think of it, there are aspects that match our nature. That is why establishing ties with Indonesia is extremely important for us.

And then there is the Non-Alignment Movement. It has about 160 member states. Indonesia occupies a very major position in this movement and enjoys great authority.

All in all I think that in the 21st century this state will become very powerful, and that it has great potential. From the point of view of gold as well as raw materials, they have various metals, rubber, and tea. Indonesian tea is the best tea, Indonesian rice is the best rice. And as far as rice is concerned, Uzbekistan's rice—Andizhan rice—is not bad either. But their rice is much better.

If we take all these things into account, then establishing stable relations with Indonesia is clearly in view on their side, and we too are ready to establish such stable and far-sighted relations in response. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Armenia

IMF To Grant $65 Million Standby Loan

LD1004221795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2102 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, April 10 (Interfax)—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will grant Armenia a standby loan of $65 million to stabilize its financial and credit systems. This came as a result of talks between the republic's government and an IMF delegation headed by the managing director of the south division of the European department, Muhammad Shadman, in Yerevan Monday.

In addition, the IMF agreed to grant Armenia $100 million in 1996 and $200 million every proceeding year.

The two sides agreed on the fund's involvement in funding Armenia's state sector bodies, provided their number is cut by one third. This will bring state employees' salaries up to $20-30 a month, while those of ministers and deputy ministers to $60-70 a month. At present, their average salary does not exceed $5 a month, while members of government receive $12-14 a month. The minimum wage in the republic is $1.2 a month at present.

Shelling of Armenian Northeast Border Villages Continues

NC1004190795 Yerevan SNARK in English 1111 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, APRIL 10 (SNARK)—Subdivisions of the Azeri army continue shelling Armenian north-eastern border villages. Late in the afternoon of April 9, the defensive positions of the Chinari and Movses villages, Tavush region, were fired twice from the territory of Azerbaijan. One Armenian soldier was wounded.

The Press Office of the Armenian Defense Ministry informed SNARK that in both cases Armenian armed units compelled the enemy to stop firing.

No incidents in other parts of the Armenian-Azeri border were reported.

Kocharyan Views First 100 Days of Presidency

954F2039A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Robert Kocharyan by Armen Khanbabyan; place and date not given: "'Our Goal Is the Recognition in International Law of the Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.' 100 Days of the First President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khanbabyan] The Armenian people have two states on the territory of the former Union. The reasons for this state of affairs—political, diplomatic, military-strategic—are common knowledge. But does this fact mean that a people who have for centuries been deprived of a unified statehood and who have traditionally aspired to national unity should have two presidents also? Does this fact not conserve the "self-rupture," which, albeit involuntary at this time, has actually come about?

[Kocharyan] I have answered this question before. I repeat: The Armenian people have one president. I am the president of the NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic].

[Khanbabyan] Do you see a tangible difference between R. Kocharyan, the chairman of the State Defense Committee, and R. Kocharyan, the president of the NKR? How has the change in your political status been reflected (or has it been reflected) in your social and political activity and official and personal aspects of your life?

[Kocharyan] In the sense of command authority, the differences are immaterial. On the personal level, certain inconveniences connected with the observance of the conventions that are, generally, obligatory for the status of president have appeared. As chairman of the State Defense Committee, for example, I could allow myself to go without protection....

[Khanbabyan] Have there been any changes in relations between the NKR and Armenia and in your relationship with the leadership of the Republic of Armenia since the presidential elections in Nagornyy Karabakh?

[Kocharyan] No radical changes could have occurred, since the relations of the NKR and Armenia are determined not by the forms of their state arrangement but by the degree of mutual understanding or differences in the vision of paths of a settlement of the Karabakh problem and the capacity or incapacity of the leaders to calmly and soberly evaluate the situation, find the correct solutions, and coordinate efforts. It is something else that is important here—both in the NKR and in Armenia the authorities should be capable of full self-realization.

[Khanbabyan] What have you personally, as president and politician, managed to get done in 100 days in your new office?

[Kocharyan] What does "personally" mean? In accordance with the law, the president exercises his authority by means of particular structures. One can write memoirs or give interviews "personally."

The present military-political situation characterized by the "neither war nor peace" formula is very specific and unusual. It requires new approaches in government, defense, the economy, and the law enforcement sphere. The country cannot be governed today as it was a year ago, when the war was on. Nor can it be forgotten that combat operations could be resumed at any moment. We must be ready for any eventuality, any turn of events.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Work is now under way on the creation of the mechanisms of realization of the political course, whose strategy is invariable, but whose tactics are in need of constant refinement. We have already determined where we stand on the majority of positions, it may be said.

[Khanbabyan] Stepanakert's traditional approaches to the possibilities and methods of a resolution of the Karabakh conflict are well known, on the whole. But are they not undergoing changes and adjustments connected with the new trends of regional geopolitics, in connection with, say, the problem of the laying of the oil pipeline from Azerbaijan to Turkey or the possibilities of a normalization of Armenian-Turkish interstate relations?

[Kocharyan] It is not entirely clear what you mean by "Stepanakert's traditional approaches." We are following closely the processes occurring in the world and adjusting our actions as necessary. But there is a goal toward which we are moving consistently—the recognition in international law of the NKR (we have won de facto independence).

Oil games are in themselves dangerous and far from always bring wealth. Baku and Groznyy have yet to become rich from oil, in any event. Concerning the possibility of a normalization of Armenian-Turkish interstate relations, we will stick to the "we'll wait and see" principle.

[Khanbabyan] The status of the NKR was determined by the very fact of the referendum on 10 December 1991. Nonetheless, it cannot be ruled out that the situation could change such that strong outside power and political pressure could be exerted on the leadership of the NKR on precisely this issue. It is no accident, probably, that there has been increasingly insistent talk as of late about a Karabakh-Azerbaijani federation, even as some prototype of a future "common Caucasus home," possibly. What can you say in this connection?

[Kocharyan] It is the first I have heard about proposals concerning a Karabakh-Azerbaijani federation, and a "common Caucasus home" sounds somehow romantic. We allow of the possibility of unfavorable factors arising and of probable outside pressure aimed at a change in the position of the NKR. We do not have any ready-made prescriptions in view of the multi-variant nature of such situations, although we are attempting to account for them. We have dependable security as a reserve—innate Karabakh stubbornness.

[Khanbabyan] Do you, as president of the NKR, believe in the effectiveness of the work of the OSCE Minsk Group and, as a whole, the possibility of a conclusive resolution of the conflict within the framework the OSCE? Would a search for a resolution of the problem on a bilateral (Stepanakert-Baku) and trilateral (Stepanakert-Yerevan-Baku) basis not seem to you more productive?

[Kocharyan] I doubt the possibility of a rapid resolution of the problem in all the negotiation alternatives, given Azerbaijan's present position.

[Khanbanyan] You said in a well-known interview that you were prepared to meet with Geydar Aliyev, inasmuch as you had things to say to him. Subsequently, according to our information, such a meeting actually took place. Did it, and if so, what did you say to him?

[Kocharyan] I consider it improper speaking in the press about the content of confidential meetings.

[Khanbabyan] Could a change in the domestic political situation in Azerbaijan, the departure of Aliyev and the reign of a "Mutalibov-Guseynov" tandem, say, affect the situation surrounding the NKR? Is the NKR leadership weighing such a possibility?

[Kocharyan] We are weighing probable versions of the development of events, this one included. Since 1988 the leadership of the Azerbaijan Republic has changed six times, and the attitude toward Karabakh has remained unchanged. We harbor no illusions in respect to possible further changes, therefore.

[Khanbabyan] The assertion that "there is no civil society in Nagornyy Karabakh" has been in vogue in Azerbaijan recently. What is meant here is the absence of political freedoms, a liberal system of social arrangement, and a certain politically structured community. What is the situation in reality, and why has Baku begun to speak about this at precisely this time?

[Kocharyan] The NKR has at this time the organization of society that most corresponds to the situation that has taken shape in the region. The main thing is that this is the conscious choice of our people ensuring internal stability. We are not attracted by the constant (successful and unsuccessful) coups in the neighboring republic.

[Khanbabyan] It is known that approximately 150 km of the former Soviet border with Iran are controlled by the NKR Defense Army. There is information that this fact is causing dissatisfaction among top officers of the border forces of the Russian Federation, who are maintaining that the Karabakhers are guarding this sector unreliably. Such assertions are evidently explained by Moscow's desire to restore control over the external borders of the Commonwealth everywhere it can. But what is the situation concerning the guarding of this sector in reality? And do not the interests of Moscow and Baku, which have an equal desire for the departure from there of the NKR Defense Army units, coincide in this specific instance?

[Kocharyan] I am unaware of the mood of top officers of the Russian Federation border forces about which you speak. No one has expressed dissatisfaction to us, in any event. The border is being guarded quite dependably, I may say.

[Khanbabyan] What, in your view, are the foreseeable prospects of the development of the economy of Nagornyy Karabakh?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Kocharyan] The NKR has already embarked on serious economic reforms. The entire set of the requisite laws and prescriptive documents has been adopted. The government is now involved in realizing them. This is the subject of a separate lengthy discussion, and it would be better were this to be held with the prime minister. I am sure that Karabakhers will learn to develop the economy quickly and well, as they learned to fight.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev, Yeltsin Advisor Discuss Baku-Moscow Ties

LD1004171195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1240 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, April 10 (Interfax)—Russia is interested in a new quality of relations with Azerbaijan, according to a foreign policy advisor of the Russian president, Dmitriy Ryurikov, during his Sunday meeting in Baku with President Heydar Aliyev.

Ryurikov said he came to Baku on the instruction of Boris Yeltsin to hear the proposals of the Azeri side concerning bilateral cooperation.

Aliyev also recognized the need for a higher level of relations between the two countries and stressed that Russia's closure of the border with Azerbaijan after the beginning of hostilities in Chechnya resulted in an economic blockade of his country. He called for specific resolute steps to lift the blockade of roads linking Azerbaijan with Russia.

Aliyev also drew Ryurikov's attention to the need for Russia to take steps to continue the process of settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to an Interfax correspondent, most of the meeting was held behind closed doors.

Turkey Expected To Increase Stake in Oil Consortium

LD1004125895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1237 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevinj Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku April 10 TASS—Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller will arrive in Baku on Wednesday for one-day working visit and is expected to sign an agreement which will increase the stake of the Turkish Petroleum Company in the Azeri international oil consortium up to 5 per cent quota, sources in Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS Monday.

The initial share of the Turkish Petroleum in the deal was 1.75 percent. Baku also announced that it was selling another five per cent to US Exxon. Azerbaijan's initial share was 20 per cent.

Earlier Azerbaijan intended to do a similar deal with Iran, but rejected the idea under US pressure.

It is highly probable that the Turkish prime minister, who had assumed the role of a mediator for her country's oil company, will raise in Baku the issue of constructing a pipeline via Turkey through which Azerbaijan's oil will flow to Western consumers in 54 months.

Russia, however, opposes the Turkish variant and wants the pipeline to go to its port of Novorossiysk on the Black Sea.

But Ciller hopes that the international consortium will approve the Turkish variant, which could earn Ankara a large profit, according to Baku-based newspapers.

Aliyev Cites 'Political Factors'

LD1004140095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku April 10 TASS—An agreement on transferring a five-percent Azeri share in the oil contract to develop Caspian shelf deposits to the Turkish Petroleum Company will be signed by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller in the recent future, ITAR-TASS learnt at the Azeri Foreign Ministry here on Monday. [sentence as received]

For this purpose, she will come to Baku on Wednesday on a one-day working visit.

The initial share of the Turkish company in this contract amounted to 1.75 percent. A decision to transfer it a five-percent share as well as a similar share to the U.S. Exxon Company out of 20-percent stake in the contract of the republican state-owned oil company was taken earlier by the Azeri Government.

As Azeri President Heydar Aliyev said at a meeting with top executives of these companies last Monday, this decision was prompted by several political factors as well as by more advantageous proposals by Exxon and Turkish Petroleum as compared with other possible partners.

According to information from the Baku press, Azerbaijan will receive 173.2 million U.S. dollars for the total 10-percent. Officials from the Azeri oil company told ITAR-TASS that this is how the Azeri side resolved its problems connected with payment of investments in this "deal of the century", providing for the production of 511 million tonnes of gas and oil from the Caspian sea-bed.

Earlier, Azerbaijan tried to settle its problem with capital investments in the project together with Iran by signing a protocol of intent with the Iranian Oil Company on the transfer of a five-percent share to the latter.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

However, these plans were frustrated due to a negative attitude to this deal by the U.S. Administration whose oil companies occupy a dominant place in the consortium. As a result, Iran lost the deal.

This decision does not meet long-term interests of Azerbaijan, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in this connection. According to a broadcast by Radio Tehran today, the minister noted that deals on oil production in the Caspian are not valid till the status of the Caspian is defined. As for cooperation between the two countries in oil and gas production, under an understanding between the Azeri and Iranian companies, the first of them will start drilling a prospecting well in the Iranian sector of the Caspian already this month.

Drilling from a floating platform is to be completed within 20 months. A contract on this, worth 14.5 million dollars according to preliminary estimates, was signed by the sides last September.

Iranian Azerbaijanis Form National Independence Front

LD1004211895 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Report by correspondent Sergey Degtaryev from the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Azerbaijani media have circulated a sensational statement. A front to struggle for the liberation of southern Azerbaijan is reported to have been created in Iran.

According to different estimates, between 20 and 30 million Azerbaijanis now live in northern Iran. It happened historically that northern Azerbaijan was part of the Soviet Union while the south became part of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Four political organizations in southern Azerbaijan have now decided at a joint meeting to organize a National Independence Front. They adopted an appeal to the Azerbaijani people which says that the emergence of an independent Azerbaijani republic after the collapse of the USSR created a real foundation for the union of northern and southern Azerbaijan and the creation of a single state. The front announced the beginning of a a national liberation struggle. They think the current Iranian regime, which they call totalitarian, is the main obstacle on this path.

There has been no reaction in Azerbaijan to the emergence of new political forces in Iran. At present everyone is taking a very cautious attitude toward the front's statement, not risking the creation of unnecessary tension in relations between the two countries. All the more so as Azerbaijan and Iran have exchanged diplomatic blows more than once over uniting the southern and northern parts of Azerbaijan.

It is worth mentioning one statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry head, Velayati, in 1992 at an international forum in Switzerland which is recalled by Radio Liberty today. The Iranian foreign minister asserted the reverse then, that a united Azerbaijan was an indivisible part of Iran.

Turkish Involvement in March Coup Attempt Alleged

954F2022A Baku ZERKALO in Russian 1 Apr 95 pp 1, 3

[Unattributed report: "President Aliyev Was To Have Been Killed on His Return From Copenhagen. Turkish Ambassador Altan Karamanoglu Has Left Azerbaijan Post-Haste in Connection With Suspicion of His Involvement in the Special Police Detachment Revolt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a version which will, possibly, very soon be officially made public in detail, President Geydar Aliyev, returning from a trip to Copenhagen, was not to have reached Baku. According to this version, the plan was to have had Bina Airport blocked off by a special police detachment by the time the president's plane had landed. The airport police and the 15 persons constituting the president's personal security could hardly have put up serious resistance to the OPON [Special Police Detachment] assault group that had by the time the plane had landed taken up suitable positions and that was equipped with more than just small arms.

That there is a basis for this version is indicated by the rumors that were circulating the whole day of 12 March and that were confirmed repeatedly, to the effect that the road to Bina Airport had been tightly closed off. Aside from this, it is known that President Aliyev had left the session in Copenhagen unexpectedly, not waiting for the closing ceremony of the top-level meeting. According to information from informed sources, details concerning the attack that was being prepared were obtained from a "foreign power." Aliyev's aircraft arrived at Bina six hours earlier than expected, which, possibly, disrupted the anticipated course of events.

According to information from those same sources, which the investigation will subsequently either confirm or refute, Geydar Aliyev was, after the plane had landed, to have been killed and the members of the national leadership which, according to protocol, were greeting the president (about 30 persons) were to have been interned. If the operation had been successful, there would subsequently most likely have been some version of the death of the president acceptable to the public.

The scandal connected with the fact that a number of high-ranking state officials are being accused of involvement in the OPON revolt in Azerbaijan continues to heat up in Turkey's news media. Specifically, certain ministers of state and officials of the National Movement are being named. According to certain information, this matter was broached in a telephone conversation between President Aliyev and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. In response to the charges, refutations are following in the press, but an indirect confirmation of them is the hurried departure from Baku of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Turkish Ambassador Altan Karamanoglu, who, it is rumored, has already obtained a new appointment in the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Aside from the latter, one further high-ranking embassy employee has left the country also.

It is hard to judge at this time whether there was involvement of citizens of Turkey in the events of March (direct or indirect) sanctioned by the leadership of this country. But there is information that special laser-sighting attachments, which are part of the arsenals of far from every army, and costly satellite communications, which could have been supplied only in accordance with a directive from a sufficiently high level, were discovered at the captured OPON base.

NFA Denies Involvement in Coup Attempt

954F2022B Baku ZERKALO in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 4

[Interview with Mirmakhmud Fattayev by A. Mamedova; place and date not given: "Azerbaijan People's Front Involvement in the Coup Is a Ministry of National Security Invention, Mirmakhmud Fattayev, Deputy Chairman of the People's Front, Maintains"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mamedova] The NFA [Azerbaijan People's Front] is being censured for involvement in the attempted coup d'etat. Can you comment on this censure?

[Fattayev] This is an invention of the Azerbaijan Republic MNB [Ministry of National Security]. They bug the telephone conversations even of a deputy of the Supreme Council and reached this conclusion based on recent telephone conversations of mine. There is no other in any way telling proof that the NFA was involved in these events. This is attested also by the fact that, were there any, the MNB would long since have adopted the appropriate measures.

We were opposed to the bloodshed and believe that less than full use was made of the opportunities for a peaceful resolution of the problem. We offered our mediation services, but, unfortunately, neither the leadership of the republic nor the OPON people availed themselves of them. And the authorities even took an ironic view of this, which was visibly demonstrated at the president's recent meeting devoted to the recent events. We continue to insist that the use of force could have been avoided.

[Mamedova] And what could the MNB have gleaned from the telephone conversations?

[Fattayev] The essence of these conversations with district branches of the NFA was that we were instructing them not to take any action without our knowledge and to be on their guard, since provocations in the name of the NFA are frequently organized at such crisis moments. But, unfortunately, the authorities are misinterpreting these words and drawing the wrong conclusions. We have Instruction No. 1 of 1 March 1994, which says: "In connection with the fact that we are not headquartered in Baku and do not have a chance to promptly contact the district branches of the People's Front, they must not adopt any measures without notification of the NFA leadership."

[Mamedova] How do you explain R. Dzhavadov's desire to carry out a coup d'etat?

[Fattayev] My subjective opinion is this: I do not take this to have been an attempted coup, because on 4 October even the authorities and R. Dzhavadov were together, and the public thought that R. Dzhavadov and the president would be together always. The present events were similar to those of last year.

[Mamedova] How might you comment on I. Gamidov's arrest today?

[Fattayev] I cannot say with what his arrest is connected specifically. It is possible that the authorities relate it to recent events, but, as we heard at the session of parliament, he was arrested according to the warrant signed by A. Omarov of 23 March 1994. According to information in my possession, there are warrants out for the arrest of a further 70 persons.

Georgia

Ministry Hopes 'Incident' Will Not Mar Ties With Russia

LD1004184895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 10 (Interfax)—The Georgian Foreign Ministry said it believed that the incident near the Russian ambassador's residence in Tbilisi on the night of April 9, when unknown persons blew up the police guard-house, "will not affect friendly relations between the two countries."

The Georgian Foreign Ministry responded to the note of protest of the Russian Embassy to Georgia and said that the Georgian government and investigating departments "are taking all necessary measures for revealing and punishing the criminals and strengthening defense of Russian diplomatic and other missions in Georgia, their employees and members of their families."

The Georgian Foreign Ministry said Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze had ordered that the service for defense of diplomatic missions be subordinated to the service for the government's defense in order to improve defense of diplomatic missions accredited in Georgia.

The Georgian government will assume all expenses on repairing the building of the Russian Embassy's official residence and guarantees that all damage will be completely compensated for.

Opposition Coalition 'A Single Georgia' Formed

LD1004140995 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA) [no date as received]—An agency correspondent reports that a general opposition coalition called "A Single Georgia," has

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

been created (the coalition mainly consists of the former president's supporters). The coalition includes famous scientist Giorgiy Gachechiladze; Irakli Gotsiridze, editor in chief and publisher of the IBERIA SPEKTRI newspaper; poet Mukhran Machavariani, and others. The address, which has been circulated specially, calls for the unification and creation of the opposition coalition which, with the help of all of the nation's intellectual potential, would realistically manage to stop the global chaos in the state—which, as time has shown, Georgia's current leadership is unable to resolve.

New Center-Left Party Holds Constituent Congress

AU1104093095 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 6 Apr 95 p 2

[Shorena Kotsotsashvili report: "Forward Toward Socialism!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 4 April, the first constituent congress of yet another political organization with a center-left orientation—the Georgian People's Socialist Party (PSP)—was held in Tbilisi.

The participants did not limit themselves to the establishment of the party. Resolutions of a political nature were adopted at the congress and also the party's rules, program, and a declaration outlining the party's position regarding several influential forces functioning in Georgia. The party's members pointed out in particular that the PSP was not a party that had arisen from the national movement. From this point of view, the party, on the one hand, does not lay claim to this movement's values and, on the other, is free of the shortcomings that characterize the latter. According to the declaration, overcoming national discord and achieving national consolidation have been chosen as the PSP's priority directions. It is pointed out in the declaration that the PSP does not represent an artificially created opposition force and that "attempts to establish primitive capitalism are unacceptable to the Georgian people." From a certain point of view, the PSP supports the establishment of a modern western type of socialism and an efficient socially oriented market economy in Georgia.

The congress elected Dr. Khachapuridze, a member of the International Ecological Academy and a scientist, as the party's chairman. It also elected the party's political council and board.

As regards the party's membership fees, its members agreed that they would not exceed 3 percent of the minimum wage.

Abkhaz Side Deploys Additional Forces in Gali Rayon

LD1004162595 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1410 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation has once again been exacerbated in Gali Rayon. Separatist leaders—unhappy with the events under way in high echelons of the Russian and Georgian leaderships as well as with the acceleration of the refugees' return to their homes—have placed an additional force of 300 men in Gali Rayon disguised as Abkhaz police. The deployment of militants in villages mainly takes place at night.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Estonia

Meri To Visit London in May for VE Celebrations

WS1104100395 Tallinn ETA in English 1618 GMT 10 Apr 95

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of Estonia Lennart Meri will go to London early in May to attend the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the termination of World War Two. Lennart Meri will visit London as guest of the British government.

On May 5, President Meri will give a reception in London's Estonian House, according to British Estonians' newspaper "EESTI HAAL".

However, the President's chancellery has not yet announced officially where the President will celebrate the termination of the war.

General Staff Appoints New Head of Intelligence

LD1004153695 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The general staff of the defense forces has made big changes in its second department—this is the department of intelligence and counterintelligence—by transferring Captain Toivo Treimaa, the head of the department, and Ensign Jaak Otsasson to different posts.

The military intelligence officer Otsasson caused a scandal by crossing the Estonian-Russian control-line on 21 March, accompanied by Reet Tobre, leader of the Petserimaa association. The Russian border guards stopped Otsasson and Tobre on the Russian territory, 30m away from the control line.

The general staff of the defense forces says that it had not given an order to Ensign Otsasson to go to the Estonian-Russian control line. Ensign Otsasson was given a disciplinary punishment and transferred to a different post. Capt. Treimaa, in whose direct subordination Ensign Otsasson was, was transferred to a post with lesser responsibilities Baltic News Service [BNS] learned from the general staff of the defense forces.

As of 6 April, the head of the intelligence department of the general staff is Capt. Riho Uhtigi.

An internal investigation by the general staff concluded that Otsasson and Tobre crossed the control line unintentionally because the Russian border poles were badly visible in the area. The general staff of the defense forces told BNS that sole responsibility for the incident that took place on 21 March is born by the commander of the defense forces—as the highest-ranking officer of the Estonian defense forces. Aleksander Einseln, the commander of the defense forces, issued additional instructions regulating the presence of the defense forces' servicemen at the control line.

Latvia

Former Defense Minister Sees Changes in Defense Policy

WS1104070495 Riga DIENA in Latvian 29 Mar 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Liga Laizane: "Trapans: Change in Latvian Defense Policy Taking Place"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riga, 28 Mar—Former Defense Minister Janis Arveds Trapans, dismissed by the prime minister last week, believes that a change is currently taking place in Latvian defense policy.

During an interview yesterday, Trapans announced that he senses a negative attitude on the part of the Cabinet of Ministers toward the activities of the group of international defense advisers. According to Trapans, they represent a real link between Latvia and NATO, which the former defense minister feels is currently being regarded as unimportant.

"In a democratic society, a minister should not ask the prime minister for the reasons for their dismissal. He has to accept the decision. I do not reproach Maris Gailis for his decision; but I must admit, however, that defense and foreign policy are certainly not among his strong points," said Trapans.

Trapans added that he thinks the arguments for his dismissal are unsatisfactory, since his plan for security, which the prime minister accused him of lacking, is in fact ready. It has been worked out and conveyed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as to the president's office, for consideration. The ex-minister was not completely sure if the concept on civil defense has also been sent to the Cabinet of Ministers, but maintained that he has seen it with his own eyes.

The names of the candidates for the post of defense minister are not yet known. However, according to information obtained by DIENA, it could be National Guards Commander Juris Eihmanis or former Internal Affairs Minister Girts Valdis Kristovskis.

Trapans emphasized that putting his personal views aside, he will by all means support the work of the next minister, because this is a matter of Latvian security.

Ambassador to U.S. Denies 'Inadequate Behavior' Charges

WS1104073795 Riga DIENA in Latvian 25 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Juris Tihonovs: "Accusations Against Latvian Ambassador in the United States False"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riga, 24 Mar—In a statement released today, the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs denies reports, disseminated to various Latvian mass

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

media by anonymous informants, that Latvian Ambassador to the United States Ojars Kalnins has sent confidential reports to his friends concerning a meeting he had with the Russian ambassador to Washington. The reports were also denied by Kalnins himself.

Several Latvian mass media have received copies of a report sent by fax from the Latvian Embassy in Washington to a person named Irma. The first line reads: "I enclose a 'confidential' document referring to my meeting with the Russian ambassador in the United States. It was also sent to Riga. Maybe Richy will be interested in it. Beware—this is an internal Foreign Ministry document and should not be disseminated." The rest of the letter contains a personal account of the meeting with the Russian ambassador. The anonymous informant has added, however, the following comment to Kalnin's letter: "Latvian Ambassador to the United States Ojars Kalnins seems to think the confidential document of the Latvian Government is suitable reading for the child of his friend Irma Johnson. Kainins explains to the child how the document should be handled." (The original transcript received by DIENA indicates that the author of the comment must be a Latvian living abroad).

Rihards Mucins, press secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, told DIENA that the ministry has begun an investigation into this case to clarify the facts of the anonymous reports. There are already grounds, however, to believe that the letter is a fake, because it is neither signed nor dated. Its goal is undoubtedly to discredit the Latvian ambassador. The official press statement says that the ministry has never received a confidential report on Kalnin's meeting with the Russian ambassador.

Commenting on the anonymous letter, Kalnins told DIENA that he has never sent any official documents or confidential information to his friends. The document mentioned in the letter is a fax sent in 1993 to his friend Irma Johnson, whom Kalnins is going to marry later this year. Kalnins added that the postscript in Latvian in the letter addressed to Irma Johnson was meant for her 13-year-old son, whom Kalnins already regards as his stepson. This was the reason why the word "confidential" was used in quotation marks. The ambassador presumes the appearance of the anonymous letter is due to the fact that both he and Irma Johnson are undergoing divorce proceedings and there are people set against that.

Kalnins also told DIENA that he had contacted Latvian Foreign Affairs Minister Valdis Birkavs, who expressed his understanding and support for him. The ambassador is of the opinion that the affair with the anonymous letter means someone wants to harm him, in his capacity as an official, by conveying facts of his private life. Nevertheless, he expressed the hope that after learning the truth, all rumors about his allegedly inadequate behavior will come to an end.

Government Proposes Talks With Russia on Asian Refugees

WS1104113495 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Apr 11, BNS—Latvia is offering Russia to start talks to solve issue of Asian refugees, who are currently staying in Latvia, as well as prepare the agreement on regulation of illegal immigration problems already in April in Riga, Foreign Ministry's Press Center told BNS.

Foreign Ministry's Second Political Department Director Einars Semanis met Monday with the adviser to the Russian embassy in Latvia, Valeriy Nestrushkin, and submitted a respective note to him.

Latvia has already set up a delegation for talks with Russia and drafting the necessary documents.

The press center reports that Nestrushkin praised Latvia's proposal and promised to provide information on Russia's activities in solving this problem.

An analogous note was submitted Monday to the Belarusian embassy in Latvia.

This was already the second note, submitted to Russia by Latvia. The first one was handed to Russia last week to refute Russia's claims that Latvia is trying to illegally send "its refugees" to Russia.

As reported, 106 Asian refugees are kept in the Olaine prison territory at the moment. Before that they lived for about a week in two train cars at the Karsava railway station. The Latvian Ministry says it can prove that the refugees have arrived to Latvia from Russia.

Lithuania

Brazauskas To Attend London VE Ceremony

WS1104100295 Vilnius ELTA in English 1213 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 732]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, April 10, ELTA—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas circulated a statement on Monday that he is going to attend the ceremony marking the end of the World War II in London.

President Brazauskas expressed hope that the visit would repeatedly emphasize Lithuania's determination to join the family of European peoples and countries.

This choice shows the unity of the Baltic states in the eyes of the World.

Brazauskas repeated the statement that he was firmly determined to stay in Vilnius on May 8 and to pay tribute to the victims of fascism together with other Lithuanians.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

On the same Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys will represent Lithuania at the ceremony in Paris.

Landsbergis Deems Tax Policy Damaging to Business

WS1104095695 Tallinn BNS in English 1750 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Apr 10, BNS—Lithuanian opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis on Monday sharply criticized the government's tax policy, saying it ruined honest businessmen and encouraged tax evasion.

Last week, President Algirdas Brazauskas and the government held a joint meeting to discuss ways of improving tax collection, while the parliament at the same time spoke about ways of exempting enterprises from taxes, Landsbergis told a news conference. Finance Minister Reinoldijus Sarkinas "clearly stated that big enterprises evade taxes, hoping that their debts will be written off," the opposition leader said.

In his opinion, the government seeks to pull some enterprises through another year and let them go bankrupt immediately after the next parliamentary elections. Similar aims are pursued with the litas-dollar pegging, because "the unpegging will be very painful," he added.

Citing press reports about the president's meeting with the government, Landsbergis noted that Brazauskas spoke about "our troubles" such as non-observance of laws, corruption and abuse of authority.

"Maybe the president will able to explain in court. It is said that for already a year he keeps a safe-full of facts about corruption among officials. It would be interesting if Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius demanded explanations in court and to present names," Landsbergis said.

Landsbergis Blasts Russia Over Illegal Asian Migrants

LD1004140895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius April 10 TASS—"Migrants from Asian countries brought illegally into Latvia by Russian trains not without Moscow's knowledge have been travelling between Latvia and Lithuania. They asked to be admitted into Sweden. Russia which brought migrants into the Baltics refused to take them back". This is said in a statement by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Fatherland Union Party (Lithuanian conservatives), circulated in Vilnius on Monday.

"Such actions may pose a multitude of political and social problems for the Baltic countries, heighten tension between them, discredit them before the eyes of the West and enable Russia to capitalise on the suffering and expectations of the rootless people", Landsbergis believes.

In Landsbergis's opinion, "Western countries could recall how the same was done in the divided Berlin, when efforts were made to provoke the FRG. This will help better to understand the present situation in the Baltic states. It is now demanded that the Baltic states assume international obligations to care for refugees and migrants".

When Western countries expel to Baltic countries the migrants who may get to the West, and Russia refuses to accept them, "some people in Moscow will rub their hands gleefully and believe they have proved that 'things were better in the past'. Such prospects are unacceptable", Landsbergis believes. "This is why Russia and Belarus must be obliged to take back Asian migrants whom Russian and Belarusian officials permitted to cross Baltic borders or whom they helped to do so illegally," Landsbergis said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.